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FBIS-SOV-93-022 *4 February 1993*

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Tactical Nuclear Arms Removed From Vessels

LD0402135293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow 4 Feb (TASS)—All tactical nuclear weapons have been removed from vessels, multi-purpose submarines, and aircraft of the naval forces, and placed in centralized storage. This has been carried out in accordance with statements by the USSR president dated 5 October 1991, and the president of the Russian Federation dated 29 January 1992. This news was circulated today by the press center of the Russian Ministry of Defense.

Moscow, Kiev Clarify Positions on Nuclear Weapons

PM0202095793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Anatoliy Polyakov report: "Russia and Ukraine Clarify Positions on Strategic Nuclear Weapons. Now Things Depend on Quest for Compromise Solutions"]

[Text] Kiev—The talks in Kiev between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations on questions of implementing the START I Treaty and ensuring the nuclear and environmental safety of the strategic nuclear forces in these states have culminated in the drafting of three agreements that the governments of the contracting parties are to examine. The delegations, headed on the Russian side by Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin and on the Ukrainian side by Yuriy Kostenko, minister for environmental protection, agreed only on nuclear and environmental safety issues.

The most difficult issue raised during the talks concerns the status of strategic nuclear weapons. Ukraine says that Leonid Kravchuk must have technical control over preventing the launch of missiles. Moreover, Ukraine considers the arms and hardware on its territory to be its property. In time for the next round of talks specially created working groups consisting mainly of military experts will work out options for closing the gap between the sides' positions on this matter.

Various options for dismantling [razukomplektovaniye], transporting, and destroying nuclear munitions must also be considered. On this issue Ukraine's position is determined by the quest for the greatest economic benefit. People here consider the $175 million allocated by the United States for the destruction of nuclear weapons in Ukraine to be a very small sum. The intention is therefore to offer for sale the nuclear components released during missile salvage [utilizatsiya], and they would, moreover, prefer to see Russia as the customer.

The sides have finally learned one another's positions on the whole range of problems under discussion. During the month or so remaining until the delegations next meet, this time in Moscow, compromise solutions must be found to curb the nuclear monster to the sides' mutual benefit.

Talks on START I End

LD0302113793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Completed was the first round of Russian-Ukrainian talks on regulating the issue linked with the realization of the START I Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol. On the agenda of these talks was the issue pertaining to the security of nuclear weapons situated in the territory of Ukraine.

As stated by the head of the Russian delegation, Yuriy Dubinin, progress has been achieved in preparing the text of the agreement on the observation of the (?exploitation) of missile components of strategic armed forces and the search for ways and discussion of different (?variants) of dismantling, transportation, and destruction of nuclear warheads and elements of nuclear components, including their processing.

Russian Arms Control Stance Given at Geneva Meeting

LD0202150993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva February 2 TASS—Russia now considers one of its main tasks is to ensure the irreversibility of the deep cuts in the arms stockpiled during the "Cold War" and the creation of reliable guarantees of non-production of material structures for a military confrontation, Grigoriy Beredennikov, Russian deputy foreign minister, said today. He was addressing a plenary session of the conference on disarmament which is in progress in Geneva.

According to the diplomat, Russia no longer has any ideologically motivated opponents and will not have any in the future. We have, like any other state, national interests which we would like to fulfil on principles of cooperation and partnership with all like-minded countries.

Aty Baty Program Discusses START II Treaty

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0050 GMT on 30 January carries the 27-minute "Aty Baty" program featuring a 20-minute segment of interviews with A. V. Chertkov, expert of the Russian Federation Defense Industry Branches Committee; captain 1st rank, retired, Yu. F. Beketov, participant in the OSV (Strategic Arms Limitation) talks; Lieutenant General V. I. Yesin, deputy commander of the General Staff of the RVSN (Strategic Missile Forces); and V.M. Surikov, general director of the Defense Research Institute, who give their views on the START II Treaty on the eve of its ratification.

The program begins with brief excerpts from the Chertkov interview, Shots of Shaposhnikov speaking at a meeting saying that further mutual reduction is necessary, and an unidentified speaker saying: "We are being denied the

Leaders Praise Results of Economic Forum in Davos

Shushkevich Calls For CIS Ties

PM0402115193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 3

[News Agency Column report: "S. Shushkevich—In Favor of Economic Integration of Former USSR Republics"]

[Text] In a conversation with journalists in Davos, Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman S. Shushkevich stated: "We are coming up against a very curious situation. Here, during meetings and conversations with our neighbors who are not in the CIS, including East European neighbors, you find new confirmation of the truth that no one is waiting for us with open arms in an integrated Europe. We can be its partners only in situations where it very much suits Europe. However, particularly within the framework of the former Soviet Union we do have much more numerous real preconditions for mutually advantageous economic integration, and we must not ignore this. But at the same time we must be clearly aware of the fact that there can be no return to the old integration, with its completely crazy waste of money and resources. We have to find a way of restoring the old ties on a new economic basis.

"Belarus's main aim is to create an efficient economy. In all circumstances, currency is a means to an end. The introduction of our own monetary unit has its pluses and minuses, but this step is undesirable in an unstable economic situation. Belarus is striving to remain within the ruble zone, but in principle this does not rule out the possibility of introducing our own currency."

Kravchuk on Financial, Nuclear Problems

LD0302182193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] A sitting has taken place at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The issue of whether nuclear proliferation can be prevented was submitted for examination. Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk spoke. He particularly stressed that Ukraine did not take part in the adoption of decisions which brought about the deployment of the third most powerful strategic nuclear grouping in the world on its territory.

The Ukraine president said that in fact it is now demanded of us that we finance a grandiose program connected with the destruction of these weapons. This is not simply about destroying strategic offensive weapons, but also about adhering to complex procedures in this process, which require very large funds.

We are grateful to the United States, noted Leonid Kravchuk, which has offered to give Ukraine financial and technical help for destroying nuclear weapons to the value of $175 million. However this sum in no way covers all of Ukraine's projected expenditure, and we expect that other states of the world, above all nuclear ones, will also join the United States in this matter. In connection with this, we have come up with an initiative to set up a special international fund for nuclear disarmament, the president emphasized.

Karimov Calls Forum 'Constructive'

LD0302164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0909 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] Tashkent, 3 February—President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan has said that taking part in the World Economic Forum in the Swiss town of Davos was constructive and fruitful. His opinion and assessment of that meeting, expressed in a conversation with a correspondent of the national news agency, were published today by the republic's mass media.

The traditional Davos meeting, in which the leaders of Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia also took part, is, in the opinion of the president of Uzbekistan, a kind of tuning fork for the prospects of economic development. Speaking of interstate integration, he noted that the sovereign countries of Central Asia, possessing great economic potential, should be transformed in a short time from traditional suppliers of raw material into major producers of goods. He particularly singled out the need to ensure stability and calm in the states of the region as a pledge of their rapid economic progress and successful and mutually advantageous cooperation with the countries of the world community.

CIS Commander Shaposhnikov on Collective Security System

MK0302110193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 6, 7 Feb 93 (Signed to Press 2 Feb 93) p 11

[Interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief, by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer Olga Bychkova at CIS Joint Armed Forces headquarters; date not given; first paragraph is Bychkova introduction]

[Text] The CIS Joint Armed Forces headquarters is in the building which formerly housed the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces command. The inherited apartments are spacious, even excessively so for a staff which is numerically comparable with the command of the army alone. The marshal has not inherited his former bosses' arrogance: He makes no secret of his desire to be the first and last commander in chief of this vast military formation. His role is to be a "hawk for peace" between politicians and the military over "one-sixth of the globe."

[Bychkova] Do you consider yourself more a military man or a politician?

[Shaposhnikov] A politician too. The dialectics is complex; in the past year I was perhaps more a politician. That is how it turns out, objectively.

[Bychkova] But do you consider yourself more Russia's representative?

[Shaposhnikov] That is, of course, a tricky question. Sometimes, when I am talking with defense and foreign ministers and ambassadors, I forget my role, and I say "well, your president" or "our president"... And then the questions start: Which president are you referring to? For me, of course, all the presidents are "ours," although at the same time I am a citizen of Russia. But I often advise Yeltsin not to "lean" on me... From time to time people ask stupid questions: What is your nationality, whom do you serve? Who else but Russia? But always and only that Russia whose vital interests are intimately bound up with the interests of the other states of the CIS and the world. Ultimately it is these supreme interests that the main command serves.

[Bychkova] How does Boris Yeltsin react to this?

[Shaposhnikov] The Russian president and I have talked about this. He always supports me in this regard, and when questions arise concerning Russia's relations with a particular state or the command's line on something that affects Russia's interests, I invariably consult with him. As I do, incidentally, with the other presidents in analogous situations. Yeltsin once said to me: If you think I am contacting you less now than before, you should not take it amiss... And I do not take it amiss: I was appointed by 11 presidents, not just one.

[Bychkova] But originally your role in the Commonwealth was more important...

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, at that time the majority of CIS states did not have defense ministries, and the command's role was determined by the need to exercise leadership over all the Armed Forces of the former USSR. That role gradually diminished, so to speak, becoming a coordinating role. There was the question of single control [upravleniye] and centralized supervision [kontrol za] of the strategic forces. Then the problem of states' ownership of the nuclear weapons located in Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan arose. This was important experience in military building, and ultimately it led us to the idea of creating a more powerful, more effective interstate military-political organ. And at the recent Minsk meeting the question arose of once again boosting the status of the main command and the Joint Armed Forces in general, in order to strengthen the system of collective security...

[Bychkova] Military questions are always discussed at the meetings of CIS heads. And documents are signed—there must be about 100 of them by now...

[Shaposhnikov] ...But the lack of effective collaboration is increasingly marked. There are military problems that are common to all the CIS states: the shaping of doctrines and legislation, technical supplies, the training of national armies and the Joint Armed Forces, operational planning, legal and social protection of servicemen, and so forth. It is necessary, on the one hand, to coordinate efforts, and on the other to distribute them sensibly. The world is not becoming any quieter, and the CIS states will simply not be able to cope with all the problems of defense and security single-handed.

[Bychkova] But only six of the 11 states adhered to the Tashkent treaty on collective security.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, six, and within the collective, everything is clear. When things are done voluntarily and wholeheartedly, I like that. Everyone can see that, say, the Russian leadership is conducting itself peaceably, and there is no need to make a monster out of Russia. Now the main command, together with the Defense Ministry of Russia and the five other states, has to find a structure which would suit everyone and be more effective than at present from the viewpoint of collective security. We have the experience of the Warsaw Pact Organization, when all the states belonging to it operated, in effect, "under the Soviet flag" and Soviet doctrine. We have the experience of NATO, where only the commander in chief is always an American... We have been instructed to prepare a report for the next "summit" meeting on everything useful to be learned from both the Warsaw Pact and NATO, so as to find the optimum format. I believe we will meet with the six defense ministers to discuss all this before April, before Yerevan.

[Bychkova] So the new structure will be more than purely a military alliance?

[Shaposhnikov] The idea is that above the purely military structure there should be a political structure, closely interwoven with it. Apart from coordinating military policy and strategy, which I have already spoken of, there

should be military-technical and military-economic collaboration, including scientific and design research and the creation and improvement of a common military infrastructure. The Warsaw Pact Organization had the Political Consultative Committee, which included all the top men—the Soviet secretary general or president, and the others... Thus far we in the CIS have only a declaration on the creation of a Collective Security Council of presidents of the six states and the Joint Armed Forces commander in chief; life still has to be breathed into this.

[Bychkova] Will the Joint Armed Forces commander in chief be head of this military-political organ?

[Shaposhnikov] The functions of the commander in chief are primarily military. Obviously, a political leader is also needed—the member states must give him the appropriate powers. He could be called general secretary of the Collective Security Council, although that title does not have positive associations for everyone... At the moment I am responsible for both political and military leadership of the Joint Armed Forces simultaneously. That is certainly not how it should be.

[Bychkova] Why not?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, because I am a military man. I have enough duties of my own—military duties. And military and political functions ought to be separated. The general secretary—let us call him that for the sake of argument—will be responsible for the implementation of military policy on behalf of and on the instructions of the Collective Security Council, while the commander in chief will concentrate on organizing the functioning of the Joint Armed forces. The general secretary will keep an eye on the general line of the United Nations, NATO, the CSCE, and talks processes, and participate in them... He will discuss the reduction of all kinds of arms and the appropriate reaction by our side... But I, all on my own, cannot be responsible for the solidity of our defenses and for disarmament at the same time! Yet that is exactly how it is at present. There should be a counterweight: The politician and the military man should help each other to move forward, and at the same time keep each other's ambitions in check. Who specifically is appointed is a matter for the Council of Heads of State and the Collective Security Council. I am prepared to fulfill either military or political functions.

[Bychkova] But for some reason the START II Treaty bypassed you?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, to some extent. But there is logic behind this. The START II Treaty is supposed to be implemented after the year 2000. As commander of the strategic forces, I am concerned with everything relating to the START I Treaty, which only goes up to the year 2000 and to which—in addition to the United States and Russia—Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine adhered, under the Lisbon Protocol. Upon its fulfillment, only Russia will have strategic nuclear missile weapons. And START II is the next stage, basically a strictly Russian-U.S. affair. This does not give me any sense of grievance or injure my pride... You should always know your place. My place is the CIS. Today.

[Bychkova] So you should certainly be au fait with this new CIS doctrine of Boris Yeltsin's which there was so much talk of in Minsk, although it has not been published.

[Shaposhnikov] I suppose you are talking about the idea of multitrack development of the Commonwealth, which envisages the possibility of different levels of cooperation for different states. That is, hypothetically speaking, you could not have, for instance, identical relations and links between Russia and Belarus and between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. But between Russia and Belarus and between Russia and Kyrgyzstan—that is a different matter. All of them are interested in each other, but in different ways. You cannot have standardized patterns, and that must be taken into account.

[Bychkova] What is the most difficult thing for you in your relationship with the politicians?

[Shaposhnikov] It was most difficult at the beginning of the Commonwealth. I had to be very resourceful in order to demonstrate something quite simple: that nobody is inventing devious traps in order once again to keep everyone "on a short rein." The Ukrainian deputies once explained to me: We will not line up peacefully alongside Soviet generals. I tried to convince them: There are no Soviet generals now. They did not believe me! And that is very upsetting. I would shoot myself rather than make war on Ukraine, or anything like that. The politicians will not share out power, so they drag the military into it. When they first set up the Joint Armed Forces, on the one hand our Russian fools were yelling: He is betraying Russia, fire him! And on the other, some of the "sovereigns" suspected me of "imperial ambitions," and they wanted me fired too... It was very tough back then. I felt totally alone...

Government Heads To Hold Regular Meeting 12 Mar

OW0302221693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Heads of governments of CIS states will hold their regular meeting in the President Hotel in Moscow on March 12, CIS Working Group Coordinator Ivan Korotchenya told INTERFAX. He discussed technical aspects of the future meeting with Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin in Moscow today. Korotchenya said that the vice prime ministers in charge of economic issues would meet three days before the meeting of the prime ministers. According to decisions reached at the last CIS summit in Minsk, they will be included in the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Korotchenya pointed out that officials were still working on the meeting's agenda.

Russian Envoy on Black Sea Fleet Talks With Ukraine

PM0302163993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Yu. Dubinin, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs special envoy, by N. Musiyenko; place and date not

given: "The Sevastopol Waltz of Diplomats. Several Questions for Yu. Dubinin, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Special Envoy"]

[Text] [Musiyenko] Yuriy Vladimirovich, as member of the Russian delegation at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet, you are well aware that passions over the fleet's future have flared up with new force in the last few weeks. The All-Navy Officers' Assembly has even sent an ultimatum to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, demanding that the status of the Black Sea Fleet and of its main base, Sevastopol, be determined by 10 February.

[Dubinin] Yes, the talks between Russian and Ukraine have indeed dragged on too long. But this problem concerns not only those who serve on ships and in shore units, but all citizens of the two republics.

The last time the topic of the Black Sea Fleet was raised officially was at the meeting of Presidents B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk in January. The heads of the two states by joint decision appointed Vice Admiral E. Baltin commander of the Black Sea Fleet. At the same time they noted that the package of documents envisaged in the Yalta agreement had not been prepared within the set time. The presidents agreed to instruct their respective state delegations to finalize the elaboration of these documents as soon as possible.

[Musiyenko] Please remind us of the gist of the Yalta agreement on the Black Sea Fleet.

[Dubinin] It is well known that it was decided to divide the fleet into the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Naval Forces, utilizing in this the existing system of basing and material and technical support. Before the final "divorce," projected for 1995, a period of transition was established, during which the fleet will be staffed equally by Russian and Ukrainian draftees. The new recruits are to be administered the oath of the state of which they are citizens. For the transitional period the fleet is to be directly subordinate to the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Yalta agreement also contains an article designed to safeguard the civil, political, economic, and social rights of Black Sea Fleet servicemen, and also of people put in the reserves and members of their families. But all these decisions, of course, need to be endowed with a specific legal content, a task being tackled by our delegation, headed by Yu. Surov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, jointly with the Ukrainian side.

[Musiyenko] Will you be able to find a common language with it?

[Dubinin] At any rate we are seeking this. We were pleased to receive at the end of January a proposal that the next meeting of delegations be held in Kiev. The exact date of this "rendezvous" will be set in the near future. We will take several draft agreements to the Ukrainian capital: on a joint command; on the status, objectives, and tasks of the transitional period; on recruitment procedures; on funding the Black Sea Fleet in the transitional period; and on specific features of the application of normative acts regulating the performance of military service by officers and warrant officers for the transitional period.

[Musiyenko] If it is possible, a few more details about the contents of these documents.

[Dubinin] It is still too early to divulge them—first we need to reach agreement with our partners. And for the time being the most important thing is not to heighten the tension and to refrain from unilateral actions capable of violating an agreement reached with such difficulty.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Feb

LD0402074293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 4 Feb

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Domestic topics predominate articles in today's newspapers. The press carries a number of exclusive interviews with and articles by Russian economists and political figures, reports by newspapers' own correspondents from flashpoints—Abkhazia, North Ossetia and Tajikistan—and reports on recent developments.

In an article in the newspaper ROSSIISKIYE VESTI, Russia's former acting premier Yegor Gaydar writes that inflationary expectations get confirmed, prices begin to soar, and there is a further decline in demand for money—a self-acting mechanism of the break-up of the monetary system emerges.

Gaydar believes that the consequences of such a development of events in Russia are of "economico-political character," not economic one. His opinion is that the current state of affairs has been affected by the "very political situation when we have got an obviously pro-inflation parliament, to a considerable extent pro-inflation central bank, and changes in the government which after December 14, last year, becomes obviously divided with regard to inflation and not bound by hard-and-fast promises to prevent a break-up of the monetary system."

In an interview with ROSSIISKIYE VESTI, Russian Education Minister Yevgeniy Tkachenko expresses an opinion that Russian school again undergoes a cardinal reform. "Together with the country, the school moves on from a gulag-determined model of society to a civil society, from a serfdom-like economy to a free market one, from the suppression of the personality to the recognition of its value," the minister maintains.

Tkachenko formulates the main features of a "strong and dynamic educational policy" of Russia as follows: To orient towards society, not to the school's own existence, overcome sectoral provincialism, and display realism instead of the former social myth-mongering.

The minister emphasises the existence of an "urgent need for the revival and development of Russian national school proper alongside all national educational systems." "Russian school must fully integrate into an all-European and global home," Tkachenko maintains.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, in an interview with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper, described the course of talks with Georgia, saying that "these are not the best of times in Russo-Georgian relations now." He believes that the state of affairs is being complicated by the fact that "we have not got so far any legal basis on which relations between the two sovereign states could be built."

In an interview with ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA, Oleg Sokolov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Disarmament and Control over Military Technologies, commenting on a short timeframe for the coordination and signing of the Start-2 Treaty, stated that "that was an example of the right use by us of the moment to reach an optimum accord."

"One of the chief merits of the treaty is that we virtually exchanged what was an inevitability to us—parting with heavy land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles—for an adequate reduction in the U.S. strategic arsenal," Sokolov said.

A failure to ratify the treaty would mean a blow to the entire system of international relations and to the new fragile system which is only taking shape now. "Such a step would mean damage to the prestige of the country which resorted to it. This is equally true with regard to both Russia and the United States," the Russian diplomat believes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) runs an abridged text of a letter addressed to U.S. President Bill Clinton by Fyodor Burlatsky, former adviser to Leonid Brezhnev and former deputy of the Soviet Union. The letter was referred to Yuliy Vorontsov, the ambassador of the Russian Federation at the United Nations, for publication in the U.S. press.

The former parliamentarian applies to the new U.S. President with a proposal and hope that his administration will manage to "map out and make a real turn in its relationship with Russia and with all states on the territory of the former Soviet Union." If America does not adopt "an extensive programme for cooperation," a kind of a "Clinton plan" similar to the Marshall Plan, that would be done by Germany and Japan, Burlatsky maintains.

Prominent journalist Yuriy Vlasov, in a PRAVDA interview, touches upon the decline in birth rate and an increase in mortality rate both in Moscow and in the whole of Russia, which constitutes a problem.

Giving data concerning the above-mentioned indicators without reference to official sources, Vlasov links the alarming situation in this respect with the liberalisation of prices announced from January 1 and strongly criticises the government.

PRAVDA carries an article about Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Meet To Prepare for Summit

LD0302183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christropher agreed to meet in the near future in one of the European cities, possibly Geneva, to discuss preparations for a Russian-U.S. summit meeting, according to the Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry which said that the two leaders of foreign policy department had a telephone conversation on Wednesday [3 February].

Kozyrev and Christopher discussed the latest events in the Middle East and characterised the deportation of Palestinians from Israel as an unexpected barrier on the way towards a stable peace in the region. The two statesmen discussed ways to resume peaceful negotiations.

They also discussed the latest Russian initiative which is called to provide resolute support to Geneva agreements on a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The United States is studying the initiative "in the spirit of constructive interest", the Information Department said.

Kozyrev and Christopher agreed to continue contacts on the questions.

Commentary Views U.S. Support for Israel

LD0402093593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0341 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Peres has called upon the United States to bring pressure to bear upon the Arabs in order to make them participate in the Near East peace talks, to be resumed in the next few days. Igor Surguchev is at the microphone.

[Surguchev] By making such an appeal to the United States, Peres proceeds from the assumption that Washington is playing the decisive role in Near East affairs. Well, there are enough reasons to hold such a view. But is the White House really so omnipotent? Will it be able, inter alia, to prevail upon the Palestinians, who categorically refuse to return to the talks until Israel complies with the UN Security Council's resolution on the deported residents of the West bank and Gaza strip? I have doubts on this account. After all, Clinton's administration has failed to make Tel Aviv comply with the mentioned resolution, although the United States voted for it, and has many levers to influence the Jewish state.

Incidentally, as I see it, U.S. opportunities to influence the Palestinians are much more limited. True, in the case of Israel, one should speak not so much about Washington's inability as about its reluctance to insist firmly enough upon Israel showing respect for the world community's opinion. Unfortunately, the special nature of U.S.-Israeli relations has manifested itself once again.

Wishing to spare the pride of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who has cornered himself by the mass deportation of Palestinians, the new U.S. Administration has not gone beyond half-measures acceptable for the Israeli Government. As a result, the unconditional return of the exiles to homeland, which resolution 799 demands, is being replaced by Tel Aviv's consent to returning about a quarter of the deportees and halving the time of exile for the others. No doubt this is a step or, rather, half-step in the right direction, but it is hardly possible to present it as a solution to the problem.

Meanwhile, both Israel and the United States believe that the necessary thing has been done and the road to resuming the Arab-Israeli talks is open. The Arab world, however, sees the situation differently, and not the Arab world alone. Russia and Great Britain, permanent members of the Security Council, have already made clear statements on the need for Israel to comply with the Security Council's decision fully and quickly. And although Moscow and London do not criticize Washington, the Americans were given to understand that it is too early for them to regard the case as closed. It looks like they will have to reason with Rabin, after all, if they do not want the situation to develop in such a way that the Security Council will have to examine the issue of the Jewish state's non-compliance with the world community's will. Having undertaken to settle the problem of the deported Palestinians, the United States should see the affair through, that is, ensure full compliance with resolution 799.

Kozyrev Rules Out Using Force Against FRY

PM0302161993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "A. Kozyrev: Russia Rules Out Possibility of Using Force Against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia"]

[Text] In an interview for the French newspaper LA CROIX, Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev stated: "Russia resolutely opposes the use of force in any form against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY], but at the same time does not rule out limited military intervention in Bosnia and Hercegovina. In Bosnia and Hercegovina, the question of closing Bosnian airspace to flights by military aircraft in line with the UN Security Council resolutions, which many countries support, could be examined. If this decision is adopted, it should not necessarily be seen as anti-Serb. In the course of recent months, all three warring sides have violated the UN Security Council resolution banning flights over Bosnian territory, and what is more the Croatians have done this far more frequently than the Serbs."

The minister stressed that, for Russia, the possibility of using force against the new Yugoslav Federation unifying Serbia and Montenegro is "quite out of the question." Moreover, Russia is demanding that the ban on flights in Bosnian airspace be applied purely to military aircraft, and

that it should not affect transport aircraft carrying humanitarian aid. Finally, the third compulsory condition being put forward now by Russia is linked with the possible adoption by the United Nations of a decision for international forces to launch an attack against ground-based military facilities on Bosnian territory. It is Russia's view that such actions are only acceptable as a retaliatory measure in the event of an attack on the international forces.

With reference to the resolution adopted recently by the Russian Supreme Soviet urging, among other things, that the international embargo in respect of the FRY be lifted, Russia's foreign minister stated: "Of course, we do pay due attention to parliament's view, but it is President Boris Yeltsin who defines Russia's foreign policy, and this applies to Yugoslavia too. The president is very well briefed on the 'Yugoslav dossier,' and no important decision can be made in this sphere without him."

Kunadze Urges 'Effective Sanctions' Against Khmer Rouge

LD0302180593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Russia stands for effective sanctions against "Khmer Rouge" in Cambodia after they refused to participate in parliamentary elections in the country.

The "Khmer Rouge" are thus staying "outside the settlement process in Cambodia" and in this connection it is worth thinking about the effectiveness of sanctions against them, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze told TASS on Wednesday [3 February] upon returning from China and Cambodia.

Russia believes the sanctions are necessary. It is necessary to speak not about the cancellation of sanctions, but about a change in the mechanism of their implementation, he added.

The decision to hold parliamentary elections in Cambodia on May 23-25 is the major result of the meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia which ended in Beijing.

Five million voters have already registered which is a big success for such a small country as Cambodia, Kunadze stressed.

However, he warned against hasty forecasts of the future situation in the country because Cambodia is a state "where one can expect anything he wants".

Speaking about the Phnom Penh proposal to hold the presidential election, Kunadze said it can be hardly held without the U.N. participation. "The issue remains open for the time being", he added.

Comments on DPRK, Japan Ties

OW0302220093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov: from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has suggested to North Korea that certain aspects of their bilateral relations should be revised in the light of what President Boris Yeltsin said not long ago in the South Korean Parliament. DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned this from Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze who returned from Pyongyang recently. When asked whether the delegation he led suggested that bilateral military cooperation should be ceased, and the treaty signed between the USSR and North Korea in 1961 should be radically revised, he declined to say either "Yes" or "No".

According to the deputy foreign minister, the North Korean leadership's reaction to Moscow's initiatives "was very positive, since we had come to find a new format for bilateral ties, not to break them or quarrel with each other".

The 1961 treaty gets extended every five years, and now it will have to be prolonged in 1995, Kunadze said. "As successor to the former USSR, Russia has to honor all its international commitments; it cannot sever the treaty with North Korea unilaterally," the highranking diplomat said. "Russia cannot revise it unilaterally either. This would create a bad, a dangerous, precedent. If we begin to revise our commitments unilaterally, others will do the same toward us, and we do not wish this to happen."

Nevertheless Kunadze made it clear that even before 1995 Moscow intends to give "a new meaning" to the treaty, in particular leave no doubts that Russia and North Korea "are no longer states with a common ideology".

With reference to military cooperation between the two countries, Russia's deputy foreign minister said that Moscow will not supply Pyongyang with military equipment and special property on credit. According to him, this is ruled out, the same as the supplies of offensive weapons. As for commercial transactions, they are possible between Russia and North Korea on certain conditions—for instance, if they do not upset the balance of forces on the Korean Peninsula, and if they conform to the U.N. Charter.

With reference to Russia's relations with Japan, Kunadze positively assessed the fact that Japan's Cabinet of Ministers spoke in favor of inviting President Yeltsin to the July summit of G-7. According to him, the other participants in the summit are not likely to object to the Russian president's arrival in Tokyo.

As for Yeltsin's official visit to Japan, the main thing is to prepare it appropriately, said Kunadze. "If we manage to work out some modus vivendi as to the range of problems

to be considered during the visit before the G-7 conference, I don't see why the president should not go there before the July summit," Kunadze said. "If we fail to do so, the visit will take place a little later. Two factors are important to us: that Japan doesn't link the G-7 conference with President Yeltsin's official visit; and that our president has said that he is not allergic to this visit."

With reference to "the four islands problem", Russia's deputy foreign minister said: we must not be "too obdurate" as far as this issue is concerned. As Kunadze believes, Japan's attitude to support for democratic reforms in Russia and for transition to free market there "is no less important" than its stand on the South Kuril islands.

FEDERATSIYA Interviews 'Arafat on Russia's Mideast Role

MK0402092593 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No. 10, 28 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Ivan Menshikov for FEDERATSIYA in Tunis; date not given: "Yasir 'Arafat: 'The Near East Is Russia's South Flank'"]

[Text] [Menshikov] Mr. Chairman, the Near East is at the center of the world community's attention again today. The tragic situation of the homeless, hungry Palestinians trapped in "no man's land" between Israeli and Lebanese border guards has left no one indifferent. How, in the Palestinian leadership's view, can this crisis be overcome?

['Arafat] Today the heart of every Palestinian, whatever his political convictions, is there—on the Lebanese-Israeli border, where our fellow citizens, deported by the Israeli Government, are languishing. On this basis, an unprecedented unification of the entire Palestinian community, under the PLO's auspices, has taken shape. This is attested to by the recent enlarged meeting of the Palestinian leadership, attended for the first time by a delegation from the Hamas movement (an Islamic fundamentalist organization in the occupied territories which claimed responsibility for the recent kidnapping and killing of an Israeli border guard. The majority of the deportees are accused of belonging to this organization—I.M.). A single eruption of indignation at the Israeli Government's inhuman actions has united everyone: right and left, moderates and radicals. The existence of various political currents is natural for any democratic society, including Palestinian society. Respect by the majority for the opinion of the minority and subordination of the minority to decisions made democratically are strictly observed in the Palestinian resistance movement. In these circumstances of rampant terror and violence against the peaceful Palestinian population, everyone has come out unanimously in favor of stepping up the people's uprising in the occupied territories, our intifadah.

[Menshikov] How do you assess the stance of the present Israeli Government? Do you think that in present conditions its potential for peace has been entirely exhausted?

['Arafat] Rabin's government is basically virtually identical to its predecessors from the Likud bloc. They rely on intrigues and maneuvering directed against the Palestinian people's interests. Open flouting of international legal norms, expulsions and deportations, seizures of land, and the destruction of Muslim and Christian holy places unequivocally characterize the Israeli Government's course. As a result, the peace talks which had lasted 14 months finally reached an impasse. This was the situation when Israel deported 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Assessing this situation, the Cairo conference of foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the talks stated that only a reconsideration of the Israeli Government's deportation decision can guarantee the resumption of the peace talks.

In this respect it is noteworthy that the UN Security Council expressed itself quite clearly, in its Resolution No. 799, on the question of the need to return the deportees to their homes immediately. So what did Rabin do? So far from heeding the opinion of the world community, he actually prevented the UN secretary general's special representative from visiting the exiles' camp. Not only that, but the Israeli cordons refused to allow through even Israeli citizens of Arab nationality who were trying to reach the deportees to take them food and medical supplies.

On the strength of all this, the question arises: Does international law have just one interpretation, or several different standards: one for Israelis and another for Palestinians? This fundamental question should be given serious consideration by the cochairmen of the peace conference—Russia and the United States.

[Menshikov] A year has passed since the USSR's "departure" from the political arena. How has this affected the situation in the region?

['Arafat] The disintegration of the USSR had the gravest consequences, not only for the Arab countries, but for the whole of the Third World. In general the world has become unipolar, one- dimensional, with a single center of power. The correlation of forces in the world arena and the balance in world politics have changed completely. The world community will be paying the high price of the USSR's disintegration for a long time to come, and its long-term consequences cannot easily be predicted yet.

At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the fact that the agreement on the emigration of Jews from the USSR reached during the Bush-Gorbachev Malta meeting is still in force today. According to various estimates, between 2 and 3 million inhabitants of the former USSR have resettled or intend to resettle in Israel, where the occupied territories are being used for colonization.

[Menshikov] Russia is the USSR's successor in the Security Council and as cochairman of the Near East peace conference. How do you assess its debut on the international scene in 1992, and what are the prospects for Russian-Palestinian relations?

['Arafat] First I would like to note that Russian-Palestinian ties are continuing to develop. For our part, we seek their further widening and deepening. The joint Russian-Palestinian consultative committee is operating productively in this field. In the course of its regular meetings, opinions are exchanged and positions coordinated on the most important problems, including the course of the peace talks and the situation in the Near East in general. We are well aware of the difficulties Russia is facing today. It is entirely justified in focusing its main interest on domestic—chiefly economic—problems. At the same time we call on Russia's politicians not to lose sight of the developing events in the Near East. Because what happens in that region is not purely the internal affair of the peoples inhabiting it. To some extent the development of events there is a touchstone for the entire world community. Any exacerbation of the situation in the region leads to an increase in tension worldwide. Moreover it should not be forgotten that the Near East is, from the strategic viewpoint, the south flank of Russia—a country which is still a highly significant military force from the viewpoint of both nuclear and conventional arms.

[Menshikov] In present conditions, what is the role of the West, in particular the United States, in getting the Near East peace process moving again?

['Arafat] The United States should first and foremost stop playing along with Israel, adhere more strictly to international legal norms, and abandon the practice of "double standards" in its approach to Israel and the Arabs. The Bush administration gave Israel not only $10 billion of credit guarantees, but also a guarantee of military superiority.

As for the new administration, we are waiting for it to determine its stance on the Near East problem. To see whether President Clinton will remain within the framework of his pre-election statements, or whether he will be able to propose a more constructive approach in the interests of all peoples.

Europe, and particularly France, seems to have a considerably more balanced stance. We advocate a greater degree of European involvement in the Near East peace process.

[Menshikov] How do you assess the present situation in the Arab world? How does it affect the prospects of the Palestinian resistance movement?

['Arafat] The Arab world has not yet healed the wounds it suffered in the Gulf war: both the actual material damage from military operations, and the profound political division. The present crisis, provoked by the deportation of the Palestinians, is, paradoxical as it may seem, helping to unify the Arab countries' political position. This is particularly perceptible with regard to the Persian Gulf countries, which had significantly restricted their contacts with the PLO after the Kuwait crisis. ['Arafat ends]

In conclusion Yasir 'Arafat wished FEDERATSIYA's readers, and through them everyone in Russia, happiness and prosperity.

Yeltsin, Bulgarian President Agree To Improve Relations

OW0302175893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian and Bulgarian Presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Zhelyu Zhelev, agreed to give a new impetus to the development of friendship relations between two countries in different fields. Press service of Russian President reported that they made this decision during a telephone talk which was held on Wednesday [3 February] on the initiative of Bulgarian leader.

Discussing the issue concerning development of economic relations, Yeltsin and Zhelev examined the possibility to establish a ferry traffic between Varna (Bulgaria) and Novorossiysk (Russia). (Until now there was ferry traffic only between Varna and Odessa (Ukraine)—Interfax.) Presidents ascertained the coincidence of two countries' positions on issues connected with settlement of Yugoslavian conflict. They also reconfirmed their readiness to continue political consultations on bilateral relations and on international problems.

Sweden's Prime Minister Arrives in Moscow for Visit

To Focus on Submarine Incursions

PM0302131393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Reports by Marat Zubko and IZVESTIYA military observer Viktor Litovkin under the general heading: "Swedish Prime Minister Going to Moscow To Resolve 'Periscope Problem'"]

[Text] Stockholm—"Carl Bildt is flying to Moscow with a new analysis of the situation concerning foreign submarines violating Swedish territorial waters," Swedish radio stated when commenting on the Swedish prime minister's forthcoming visit to Russia.

The local press claims that a wide range of questions concerning bilateral relations, including trade and economic ties, will be discussed at the talks in Moscow, but the Swedish guest intends to focus on the problem of mysterious submariners violating Swedish waters.

Your correspondent discovered from Swedish sources that as recently as last week copies of magnetic tapes were sent to Russia, containing recordings of noises from the screws of a submarine (or submarines?) which the Swedish coast defense was hunting in the fall of last year off the country's eastern seaboard.

There are all the signs that Carl Bildt will try and obtain the Russian authorities' admission that it is actually Russian submarines which are the transgressors. The prime minister has consistently favored the version of events which says that Soviet submarines were violating Sweden's skerries in the past, and that now Russia is doing the same.

Last year people in Sweden began to express their doubts about this despite the longstanding "periscope campaign." First of all Commodore Carl Andersson, who is well-known in the country and was in the past a leader of the coast defense, stunned many Swedes by calling the rumpus over the foreign submarines' incursions into the Swedish skerries a "figment of the imagination similar to flying saucers."

But not so long ago Wilhelm Agrell, Sweden's leading specialist on problems of peace and conflicts, made a fairly sharp statement: The information about the Russian submarines' actions in the Baltic Sea, which Stockholm is receiving from Moscow, is being hushed up in Sweden.

W. Agrell considers that "Swedish-Russian relations are too serious a matter to be entrusted to individuals who decide them at their discretion." The expert also thinks that the prime minister has been tying up all his political prestige in the submarine issue.

Several specialists in Stockholm assert that the Swedish guests will even attempt to tie the submarine issue in with that of granting credit to Russia of 1 billion Swedish krone (approximately $135 million) as a single "package" at the talks in Moscow.

The Swedish prime minister will also discuss other questions in Moscow, which are complicating Swedish-Russian relations. The following fact testifies to the seriousness of his intentions: His visit will be an official one. [Zubko ends]

[Litovkin begins] The Swedish prime minister is expected in Russia. People here wish to draw a line under the protracted "periscope war," although the experts I know claim that this will not be easy to accomplish.

The Swedish side does not possess precise and clear arguments which indisputably prove the appearance of Russian submarines in Swedish territorial waters. All the recordings of underwater noises which have been received from Stockholm are of a very poor quality. It is impossible to draw from them an unequivocal conclusion about the presence of submarines and to whom they belong. It is no accident that even the prize of 1 million Swedish krone, announced last fall for any Russian Navy sailor providing evidence of the borders being violated, has remained unclaimed. In our experts' opinions, the Swedes will have to find a way of extricating themselves honorably from an unpleasant situation which is of their own making.

On the other hand, our Navy's Main Staff is also failing to give the public clear proof that Russian submarines have never been in Swedish waters except for the single incident in 1981.

It is being asserted that during the Swedish premier's visit to Russia, he and President B. Yeltsin will sign a document in which both sides will pledge to cooperate in the search for the truth. How successful this cooperation will be is an open question.

Views Relations With Russia

LD0302201393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1911 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS political correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Stockholm February 3 TASS—Swedish Prime Minsiter Karl Bildt arrived in Moscow late on Wednesday [3 February] on his first official visit to Russia as Swedish prime minister. He has been heading the Swedish Cabinet since the autumn of 1991. On Thursday, Bildt is expected to meet with Yeltsin to discuss a wide range of issues.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS before his departure to Moscow, Bildt said economic reforms in Russia are of tremendous importance for the whole Europe, especially for Russia's neighbours.

He said Sweden wants to see Europe living in peace and cooperation with Russia as its equal member.

He said the transition towards a market-oriented economy after 70 years of party dictate is not easy and praised the Russian leadership, especially President Boris Yeltsin, and the Russian people for their determination to keep pace with Europe.

The premier said Sweden and Russia are already cooperating in several spheres. Sweden provides economic consultancy to Russia and helps it to increase the safety of its nuclear power plants. In addition, the Swedish government plans to allocate one billion crowns in credit guarantees to encourage trade and investments in Russia and the Baltic states. Sweden is also considering a programme of cooperation with northwestern regions of Russia.

To lay a firm foundation of trust between the two countries for the future, they need to solve the problems that tarnished their relations in the past, Bildt said. He added Sweden appreciates what has been done in Russia in this direction under Yeltsin and values his policy of openness.

Bildt welcomed the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the Baltic states, but stressed the need to set the deadline for their withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia. He said Sweden is ready to provide the necessary assistance to facilitate the conclusion of respective agreements and re-train demobilised officers.

The prime minister said the expansion of cooperation with Russia strengthens stability and security in the region. Cooperation also means a boost in trade and cultural exchanges between the two countries, Bildt said.

Naval Officer on 'Elusive Subs' in Swedish Waters

OW0302133493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 03 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow is proposing to Stockholm to drop depth charges and destroy the intruder submarine should it wind up in the Swedish territorial waters. INTERFAX was

informed about this by a high-standing official in Russia's Main Naval Headquarters who wished not to disclose his identity. "If a Russian sub indeed intrudes into the Swedish territorial waters," he said, "we will collect whatever remains of it after the bombardments, thereby put an end to all these speculations." The official was referring to the so-called "elusive subs" which, according to Stockholm, are periodically intruding into the Swedish territorial waters.

The Russian naval official did not specify when this initiative originated, indicating, however, that it was not new.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt is coming to Moscow on Wednesday. Some of the Swedish mass media sources inform that during his talks with the RF [Russian Federation] officials he is going to raise the issue of incursions into the Swedish territorial waters by unidentified, supposedly, Russian submarines.

Rutskoy Says U.S., NATO Chief To Help With POW's in Afghanistan

OW0302144893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Wednesday expressed the hope that it will be possible this year to make provisions for the release of Russian war prisoners from Afghanistan. Speaking in Volgograd to the mothers of soldiers killed or taken prisoner in Afghanistan, he said the new U.S. Administration has promised Russia assistance in this. Rutskoy said he discussed it with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore in a telephone coversation a few days ago.

According to Rutskoy, help has also been promised by General John Shalikashvili, NATO Supreme Commander in Europe.

Rutskoy put the blame for the problem on Soviet ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev and ex-Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who, he said, failed to the make the release of Soviet war prisoners the condition for the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Shokhin Says Moscow Considering GATT Membership

LD0302195793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by correspondent N. Pavlov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin today met GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, who is visiting Russia for the first time. Our country joined this organization as an observer two years ago and now believes the time has come for Russia to join GATT:

[Begin Shokhin recording] We are seriously considering the question of applying for GATT membership. We are talking here, first, of the fact that foreign trade and custom regulations in Russia should create favorable conditions for cooperation between other countries and us and, second, we will fight to see that there are no discrimination restrictions for Russian exporters on other countries' markets. [end recording]

IMF's $3 Billion in Aid Linked to Economic Program

OW0302220893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1928 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will receive a further $3 bln [billion] aid as part of the IMF's $4 bln credit line opened last year, IMF's Executive Director Michel Camdessus said speaking in an interview with the IZVESTIYA newspaper on Wednesday. However, he did not say when though linking the proposed aid with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's economic programme.

Camdessus said IMF officials would hold consultations with the Russian government later this month or early next. He said that consultations could be followed promptly by direct talks provided the Russian government reaffirmed commitment to monetary and financial stabilisation and structural reform.

The IMF director said the Gaydar cabinet had failed to meet its economic plan targets hoping that the new plan would be strictly observed, which is very important "for the prestige of a country as great as Russia". He said the world would not understand if Russia fails to honour its commitments twice in a row.

Camdessus said preventing hyperinflation was Russia's topmost job. He described hyperinflation as a most dangerous trend which must be stopped at any cost. At the same time, after hearing out the Russian prime minister, Camdessus arrived at a conclusion that the Russian government was aware of the need to counter hyperinflation planning to take adequate measures to correct mistakes made in money and financial policies.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1606 GMT on 3 February adds the following: "Financial assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Russia will directly depend on the programme of economic reforms of the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin, according to IMF Director Michel Camdessus.

["The IMF does not advance any preliminary conditions, its assistance will depend on whether 'the programme is verisimilar for the Russians and the world community', he told the IZVESTIYA newspaper on Wednesday. However, he added that if the Russian government confirms its adherence to financial stabilisation and structural reforms in economy, then 'we shall very quickly switch from consultations to direct talks on granting credits'.

["The main task for Russia is to avoid hyperinflation, according to the IMF director. 'Reforms cannot go on in conditions of hyperinflation', he explained.

["During a meeting of Chernomyrdin with Camdessus' deputy in Davos the Russian prime minister made it clear that the government is fully aware of the need to avert hyperinflation. Camdessus said he is not going to rush Chernomyrdin with the reform programme and would prefer that the document is well-considered at all levels in Russia.

["The fund also wants to be sure that its money remains in Russia and is not deposited in banks of Zurich, Paris or London.

["For the time being, Russia is sure to receive the promised three billion dollars and 'the sooner the better', Camdessus said, adding that Russia currently needs not less than 24 billion dollars."]

Kozyrev, Tajik Parliament Speaker Discuss Cooperation

LD0302191893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a telephone conversation with Tajik parliamentary speaker Imamali Rakhmonov on Wednesday [3 February].

According to the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, during the conversation the two leaders exchanged opinions on prospects for cooperation between the two countries and further contacts between their representatives.

The importance of the forthcoming visit to Tajikistan by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was stressed in this context. The Tajik parliamentary speaker expressed his gratitude to Russia for its support to Tajikistan.

Motives for 'Russian Club' Leader's Tokyo Visit Pondered

PM0402091593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Tokyo Debut for 'Russian Club'"]

[Text] Tokyo—The most interesting events, as a rule, are those about which there is little official information. The brief visit to Tokyo by Mikhail Bocharov, leader of the "International Russian Club," confirms that rule—without fuss or pomp, Bocharov spent five working days at key locations in the Japanese political and business world translating the talk and conjecture about the "third force" in Russian politics into the language of the prevailing realities.

As I have managed to ascertain, the "Russian Club" president's trip to Japan was organized by the Japanese themselves, who, it seems, have been watching the developments in Russian life considerably more seriously than we sometimes imagine. According to a very well-informed source in Tokyo, one of the main reasons for Bocharov's invitation to the Japanese capital was a desire to "build bridges with post-Yeltsin Russia" and establish contacts with the structures which wield real influence in the country. From this viewpoint it is remarkable that in the mosaic of Russian politics today it was the "Russian Club," formally speaking neither a party nor a movement, which was at the focus of attention.

Why precisely the "Russian Club" was chosen rather than some other organization can be judged from two opposing views extracted from an exchange with the Japanese side—in one instance the answer was this: "We analyzed who the club's members were." In the other, the answer was this: "We concentrated on who were not club members." This "contrast," furthermore, did not affect the choice—Bocharov was invited to visit Tokyo not for a routine delivery of lectures or to take part in a symposium with the subsequent receipt of a fee but exclusively for talks as leader of the "Russian Club," whose motto is [czarist premier] Stolypin's rallying cry: "We need a great Russia."

Little is known about the content of the talks—all the meetings were private in character and Bocharov himself was virtually the only Russian representative among recent visitors to Japan who did not seek meetings with the Japanese press and did not give interviews to introduce himself. As Bocharov's "political biography" does not enable one to draw any conclusions about his bashfulness, the lack of information itself is already a kind of information which needs to be seriously pondered. Food for thought is also furnished by the rare fact that, as the Japanese acknowledge, the president of the "Russian Club" did not ask for anything—credits, investments, or any form of support from Tokyo. Noting this fact, Japanese sources indicate that during Bocharov's Tokyo meetings a very wide range of questions was raised—from the ill-fated territorial question to problems of a global nature. However, the Japanese are saying nothing about the "content" of this discussion.

Nor was Mikhail Aleksandrovich himself too expansive when I met with him on the eve of his departure from Tokyo. In the "Russian Club" leader's words, the meetings in Japan were very useful for both sides and in some respects even of "fundamental importance." This importance is based on the three main factors which the "Russian Club" sought to convey to the Japanese: For all its present difficulties, Russia remains a global power and will form its relations with its neighbors, including Japan, on the basis of its global interests, in which in one country alone—Russia—occupies an exclusive place; Russia cannot be a laboratory for experiments in the introduction of any "models," whether in politics or the economy, and will not live according to someone else's prescriptions or recommendations; relations with Russia must not be built on the basis of narrow short-term considerations and must not be personalized—approaches must be long term and well considered and take into account the balance of public sentiment within the country.

Despite my persistent questioning, Mikhail Aleksandrovich did not say which way that balance will be tilting in the near future but merely noted the danger that the most important state institutions might be discredited if there is an escalation of a debilitating power struggle. That danger, in his words, is well understood in Japan too.

It seemed to me that this subtle distinction in the "Russian Club's" Tokyo debut might be considered crucial....

Kozyrev, Canada's McDougall To Discuss Summit

PM0402122993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Pavel Vasilyev report under the "Talks" rubric: "Brian Mulroney's Visit to Moscow in Preparation: Andrey Kozyrev and Barbara McDougall Discuss on the Dates and Program for the Russian-Canadian Summit"]

[Text] Canadian Secretary of State for External Relations Barbara McDougall arrived in Moscow yesterday at the invitation of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Today she will hold official talks with Andrey Kozyrev and other Russian diplomatic leaders. It is also presumed that the Canadian guest will be received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"Barbara McDougall's present visit," your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent was told by Nikolay Spasskiy, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's North America Department, "has two aims—preparing for the Russian-Canadian summit, which is scheduled for spring, and taking stock of all previous bilateral accords. That is why the talks and meetings which the head of the Canadian foreign policy department is having in Moscow will be purely of a business character."

The Russian diplomat recalled that the previous meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney took place in Ottawa in June 1992. On that occasion the two countries' leaders signed the Russian-Canadian Treaty on Concord and Cooperation and the Agreement on Trade and Commercial Relations and the Canadian premier was invited to pay an official visit to Moscow.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Says Economy 'Teetering on the Brink'

MK0302130593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 6, 7 Feb 93 (Signed to press 2 Feb) p 13

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov by Vladimir Gurevich; place and date not given: "'Walking a Knife-Edge Holding Each Other's Hand'"]

[Text] "I don't want to toss around words like catastrophe. But the situation is 'teetering on the brink.' In my view the government has a maximum of one or two months to start acting resolutely," Russian Federation Vice Premier Boris Fedorov stated in a conversation with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI Economics Desk editor Vladimir Gurevich.

[Gurevich] It is now a month that you have been in your job, from where "you can see everything." What precisely have you seen?

[Fedorov] You don't have to sit in this office to realize that the situation is deteriorating, inflation is rising, and the ruble is falling. Nobody has any confidence in anything. We have an extremely primitive and uncivilized market, but it does exist and it does react to whether it thinks there will be any action or not. For example, the speculative unloading of rubles on the currency exchange demonstrates this very uncertainty. Where are we going, what are we going to do? Over all these weeks we have been making declarations, but in specific terms virtually nothing has yet been done.

[Gurevich] But we already heard Gaydar last year saying the things that Boris Fedorov is saying. A tight credit policy. Even the figures compare: reducing inflation to 5 percent a month, cutting the budget deficit to 5 percent of GNP... Is Fedorov "today's Gaydar"?

[Fedorov] These weren't Gaydar's invention. And these figures are in no way copied from other programs; nor is cutting the deficit an end in itself. It is simply that if it reaches the 20 percent level, for example, there can be no question of any chance of an improvement. You can't have a "collapsed" budget and high inflation and at the same time think about somehow boosting the economy and raising living standards. And we don't have a choice of three or five fundamentally different ways out of this situation. We can go along more smoothly or less smoothly, discuss how to carry out privatization, think about whether or not we should immediately introduce a system whereby enterprises have to sell 100 percent of their foreign exchange, or about whether oil prices should be deregulated (incidentally, I am sure that they should have been deregulated along with other prices at the beginning of last year, whereas now periodic rises in energy prices fuel inflation). It is also necessary to have a more specific industrial and structural policy: to determine who we support and who we don't and what niches in the world market we want to fill. I rate the absence of such a policy as one of the previous cabinet's serious miscalculations. But it is an illusion to think that hyperinflation can be avoided and a normal ruble obtained by some fundamentally different means, that this will be bestowed upon us from somewhere. It won't happen.

[Gurevich] But when the reforms began the situation seemed to be more propitious for this. There were several factors: the atmosphere which existed after the putsch; the president's firm support for a tight financial policy; the calmer reactions of individuals and the Supreme Soviet; Gaydar himself in actual charge of the cabinet; the West apparently promising a great deal. But nevertheless the tough policy failed.

[Fedorov] I think that in his position Gaydar could have done more. Although to be honest I can understand, as a new member of the government, what kind of pressure there is from every side... But I fundamentally disagree: There was no failure, because there was no "tight financial policy." An 18 percent decline in a year but with unemployment at the same level as at the beginning of the year, not a single state enterprise director fired, not a single plant shut down or reorganized. This is not very reminiscent of "radical reform" or "structural restructuring." Prices have gone crazy and living conditions have deteriorated, but this happened without the reforms that were announced.

[Gurevich] "Futile efforts," then?

[Fedorov] Not totally futile. Albeit blunderingly, prices have been deregulated, privatization has begun, and many directors are thinking and acting in a slightly different way—some of them, even, in a very different way. But the compromises have been such that we are today "on the threshold" of hyperinflation. We need to stop all these theoretical disputes about which is better—Keynsianism, monetarism, or any other "-ism." And act with common sense. And this suggests that if we do get into hyperinflation (and people have already gotten used to this term to some extent) there will be no time to argue about whether to support the currency or industry. Even with the inflation we have been having the financial and banking system has not been coping. But with hyperinflation it would simply start to fall apart and the process would become uncontrollable. And the way out would entail political solutions: If you don't mind, I won't elaborate on that subject....

[Gurevich] There would also be "economic" solutions: taking money away from people again, freezing wages. You have your own classic collection of remedies, "they" have theirs....

[Fedorov] Even today people are saying: "Fix" everything, freeze everything. Let's just freeze wages and there won't be any inflation. Or let's set profitability levels for everyone... It's a blind alley. We would be going around in circles until we plunged into some kind of dictatorship.

[Gurevich] You say that the government has only a month or two to start acting resolutely. Let us assume that it has started. And that things are again going badly. We would immediately "plunge" into something.

[Fedorov] In that case we might as well sit and wait for everything to finally disintegrate. This being the case, I, for my part, should not have accepted the president's proposal and become vice premier; I should have stayed in Washington at the World Bank, where I had started working comparatively recently, and spent my time representing Russia's interests while meanwhile the country was disintegrating... It would be another matter if I realized that there was nothing I could do. But right now I do not think this. Our economic situation is such that we have to walk along a knife-edge. On one side, hyperinflation and everything it entails, on the other, a disastrous slump in production and mass unemployment. If it can be done, the way to successfully walk this knife-edge is by sticking together, holding each other's hand.

[Gurevich] Whose hand are you prepared to hold?

[Fedorov] Something I find extremely disturbing is that in our country the resolution of many questions, even fundamental questions, has proved to be dependent on personal sympathies. Almost everybody is infected by this. But nothing will get done that way. I would like to get into dialogue with Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Volskiy, and Travkin alike. The government must be in contact with Yavlinskiy, and with Gaydar, and with our well-known economist academicians.

[Gurevich] And the Central Bank too?

[Fedorov] Naturally. Unfortunately Gerashchenko did not attend the Credit Commission session to which he was invited. But any kind of stabilization of the ruble cannot be even a dream without cooperation with the Central Bank. Its leadership contains a whole series of people who seem to me to have a good understanding of the situation—professionals. But hitherto they have adopted a somewhat conformist stance.

[Gurevich] Maybe something of a compromise stance?

[Fedorov] If the Central Bank is really protecting money, compromises cannot go beyond the point at which money starts to self-destruct. We ask: Can there be a healthy ruble when the official Central Bank interest rate is 80 percent, whereas on the market credit is being offered at 140 percent? It is clear that given the present inflation rate, 80 percent is in no way an instrument for monetary recovery. It is also clear that given our undeveloped money market and the absence of indirect regulators, we will have to utilize a cruder instrument—direct quantitative restrictions on the size of credit. If inflation was merely sluggish it would be okay, but we are now plummeting into a different situation. Who is going to do something?

[Gurevich] What arguments does the Central Bank have?

[Fedorov] They agree "in principle." But there is no specific response. Instead, we are perpetually told how important it is to support industry. I go to a conference to do with banks, the manager of the Tver office, for example, comes in, and he talks about trains, about the harvest, about anything you like, except money. Everything is topsy-turvy. The situation in any country is absolutely clear: The Central Bank guards the money like Cerberus, and the government is compelled to pursue its industrial policy within the constraints of this tight monetary policy. We are not the ones who should be begging the Central Bank, if I can put it that way, to keep watch on the ruble; on the contrary, it should be the one that is controlling it, defining the "monetary framework" within which we must operate. But my impression is that we have traded roles. This is not compromise, it is the road to chaos. Not to mention the fact that we don't get enough information. But, gleaning this from State Committee for Statistics data, I can say that credit emission is already in the region of 1 trillion rubles [R]. We are swamping the economy.

[Gurevich] You talk about the need to raise interest rates for credit. But what about interest rates for deposits? The rates that the Savings Bank is currently paying are hopelessly behind inflation. And one more point: Some people would prefer to keep their money in commercial banks, but are afraid to. Does the state intend to underwrite such deposits in some way against the possibility of bankruptcy?

[Fedorov] On the subject of savings bank deposit interest rates. In general, the state has never wanted to pay people a normal rate, but now we have unequivocally said that the rate must be at least doubled. I hope that this will be done in February—unless the Central Bank prevents it... On the subject of underwriting deposits in commercial banks: Yes, the state should do this for small deposits of up to, say, R50,000. It is necessary to safeguard the money of depositors like, for example, pensioners.

[Gurevich] Is the inflation rate now such that there are involuntary fears that we might again plunge into a cash crisis?

[Fedorov] I hope not. I don't understand at all how one could contrive to get into such an absurd and dangerous situation. This must not happen. A tight monetary policy in no way consists in a shortage of cash. It is necessary to prepare larger-denomination bank notes in advance, and even if the money spent on this was spent "in vain," it would mean, thank heaven, that we had managed to stamp out inflation.

[Gurevich] And if not, it would mean, specifically, the failure of plans to stabilize the ruble exchange rate this year... Last spring Fedorov the expert predicted that the then government's plans to raise the ruble rate would not be fulfilled, and that in the fall the ruble would collapse. And that is what happened. Now Fedorov the government member is himself planning to stabilize the rate.

[Fedorov] Stabilizing it does not mean holding it at one level, still less raising it. It means ensuring that the fall in the ruble's hard-currency exchange rate is no faster than inflation. But that is conceivable only if we have a restrained credit policy and a corresponding budget deficit. If not, the task is impossible. True, some people would like to tackle it in a frankly extremist way right now. They say: The rate is bad, let's make it R100 a dollar. Then let's make it how it used to be: R1 to $1.5. I keep asking them: Do you think wages are going to increase as a result, or

efficiency improve, or what? Do we hide our head in the sand like an ostrich and assume everything's fine? Of course, the present rate—in terms of the food basket, in terms of goods, in terms of GNP—is distorted. But that is what the demand is on the currency market. The market is distorted? Fine, then let's develop the currency market and restrain the flow of capital abroad. We are now putting forward concrete proposals, let's liberalize foreign trade, albeit not indiscriminately, and the ruble rate will change too.

[Gurevich] ...I'm afraid this is a never-ending story: You keep talking about the ruble, and they keep talking about the decline in production. And so we pass the time, round and round.

[Fedorov] About the decline in production. Yes, this is serious, but also it has become fuel for political speculation. Where and what is the decline? In oil, or tractors, or housing, or tanks? In some places decline is dangerous, in some it is necessary. Do you seriously imagine that given the present economic structure one can even dream about increasing prosperity? Some part of it must without fail be reduced or even disappear. It is naive to think we can do anything without loss. Furthermore, if you study specific enterprises, in some places it transpires that there is no decline at all, production is continuing, but it does not show up in the statistics, it disappears onto the "gray" market. That is bad from the point of view of the law, of taxes, but just now we are talking about the scale of production.

[Gurevich] When people say in the abstract: Something must be reduced, disappear, then this is frightening, although obviously this must indeed happen... How can plants be closed if they support entire cities, their entire infrastructure?

[Fedorov] Come off it, nobody now has any intention of closing enterprises that serve entire cities. But I agree, the lack of a really clear industrial policy could be exploited to stop the reforms. We should say—and that means we ourselves have to know—what is to be closed and whom should be supported and how. Should we protect our country's industry? There is no answer to that question. Which industry? If you ask specifically whether we should support, say, the production of video recorders, I can answer specifically: No. It can develop of its own accord—but for God's sake, do you believe that even in five years' time our video recorders will be up to world standards? I don't believe it either. So we'll survive somehow by buying them from Japan or Singapore. But there are areas where we have a very different potential, and that should be preserved.

[Gurevich] There is already a Bankruptcy Law. Will it operate?

[Fedorov] That is what we have to find out. On 19 January the government adopted a decree on a number of enterprises. But I want to point out: Bankruptcy very seldom means complete closure. Of course, for a mine, maybe, which nothing can be done with. But in general bankruptcy is when the owners go bankrupt and the property has to be auctioned off.

[Gurevich] If there is anyone to buy it and they have the means to buy it.

[Fedorov] So the price will be low. You can even put in a bit extra to induce someone to take it... Bankruptcy is usually followed by reorganization. And I would be happy if that were to happen even at the request of the collectives themselves.

[Gurevich] Bankruptcy at the workers' request?

[Fedorov] There are loads of enterprises which are going down and the people working there are making only kopeks while the director sits there unwilling and unable to do anything. Why should the workers not raise the possibility of bankruptcy? In general it is more profitable to continue to pay wages than to maintain an enterprise. The ratio is 1:3—it is three times more expensive to maintain that kind of enterprise than to maintain wage payments. You can even have a 2:3 ratio, meaning you could even raise wages and the state would still gain from not having to provide materials, fuel, and so forth. If you recall, this was proposed back in the "500 days" program.

[Gurevich] But in a situation of payment defaults, expensive credit, and so forth, bankruptcy could be faced by absolutely viable production facilities or even ones in which the state has an undoubted interest. But you are opposed to the indexation of circulating capital or another debt-offsetting operation.

[Fedorov] I am opposed to money being handed out indiscriminately, but I am not opposed to giving support. At the moment we are plummeting toward indiscriminate handouts: indexing everyone, giving everybody credit. But this means unequivocal inflation—we give people R100 with one hand and take R200 out of their pocket with the other and tell them we are protecting them. Let us determine from the start who we are helping, in what way, and how. Benefits? Fine—but in the open and only through the budget. And tough demands of those who receive the benefits so that the wage fund doesn't expand out of control and everything seeps away into the sand. So you have a limited and constantly monitored size of budget deficit (which, incidentally, should be increasingly financed by state-issued securities). And, beyond that, any benefit must have an absolutely specific source: Either some other area of spending is cut, or a new tax is introduced, or an additional source of revenue is found. Yes, there are priorities. Money must not be produced out of thin air any more.

[Gurevich] Boris Fedorov has been involved in finance all his life. Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin is a life-long production man. You seem to speak different languages. What is your impression of your first month of cooperation.

[Fedorov] I think we understand each other completely. We are not afflicted by deafness or dumbness. Incidentally, a few days ago the premier addressed the Supreme Soviet

and described what the government intends to do. And his speech was a very great success. It seemed to me that people were not only listening to him, but hearing what he had to say.

Gaydar Warns Yeltsin's Team Against Hyperinflation

LD0402110793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—"Since the danger of hyperinflation remains imminent, the president and his team should include in their political strategy and, particularly, in the strategy of the forthcoming referendum some questions, the solution of which is important for making the beginning hyperinflation fit into the pattern of constitutional and democratic norms. These questions must be put to the people during the referendum," ex- Premier Yegor Gaydar believes.

Writing in today's issue of the newspaper "ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI", he says that the latest "inflationary expectations are proving to be correct. Prices are beginning to soar. Demand for money is declining. The self-untwisting mechanism of the monetary system's collapse is taking shape", Yegor Gaydar notes in his article entitled "What Policy Does Mrs. Hyperinflation Require". He says that the consequences of such developments in our country will not be purely "economic, but both economic and political".

At the same time, Gaydar writes, "the instruments possessed by the government are, unfortunately, not very diverse or sufficiently effective to prevent the already beginning hyperinflation".

He believes that the current situation is negatively affected by the "political situation, in which we have an obviously pro-inflationary Supreme Soviet, quite pro-inflationary Central Bank, and a reshuffled government, which has obviously become divided after December 14 over the problem of inflation, and which is not bound by any rigid commitments not to allow the collapse of our monetary system. It is worth adding to this some other measures which were not of a monetary, but of a purely propagandistic character". Gaydar mentions among such measures the discussed allocation of additional hundreds of billions of roubles to augment the circulating funds, the fuss around attempts to freeze the prices of a wide range of commodities and natural resources. All this, in his opinion, has produced stable changes in the attitude of subjects of the national economy to inflationary prospects.

Volskiy Sees 'No Positive Trends' in Economy's Future

LD0302163893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, called the current processes in the development of the Russian economy a "dominoes effect." The gist of these processes is that production is going down, prices are soaring so that the people cannot afford to buy goods. Since products are not sold, their production is decreasing still more, while prices are again going up. And this will continue until the economy is completely ruined, Arkadiy Volskiy told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

At the same time, no positive trends towards the improvement of the situation can be reasonably expected in the near future. What is more, if in December prices went up by 25 per cent, in January they soared even more, to say nothing of February at the beginning of which the cost of natural gas—the basic price-forming product—sharply rose, the president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs pointed out.

Arkadiy Volskiy believes the first step towards overcoming the current crisis could be the establishment of strong executive power. If this does not work, "all discussions on the stabilization, financial crisis and curbing inflation will remain idle talk."

According to the president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the present government should put things in order in the implementation of its decisions. Arkadiy Volskiy is sure that Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom he knows well and highly appreciates as a specialist and statesman, is capable of restoring strong executive power, although he needs some time to familiarize himself with the matters of his office.

Arkadiy Volskiy believes the situation will hardly be stabilized this year. "If we take 1990 as a reference point—it is exactly this year that production began to fall—it will take us two or three years to reach the 1990 production level," he said.

Touching on the widespread opinion that the fall of production is allegedly the result of the current reforms, the president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs does not agree with this point of view. "If we estimate all reduction in the production output 100 per cent, then 60 per cent will fall on the severance of economic ties," he said. "The economy should not be a policy's hostage which it is now," Arkadiy Volskiy stressed.

Dollar Payments Method To End 'This Year'

LD0402165293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] This year will see a complete withdrawal of dollars from circulation as a method of payment on Russian territory. This was announced by Andrey Shapovalyants, Russia's first deputy minister for economics. According to him, dollars in cash can be taken abroad and exchanged for rubles at the exchange rate in operation at the time.

Government To Subsidize Bread Prices

LD0302171493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1657 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Russia will subsidise prices for bread to keep the basic necessity accessible for the people.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a resolution saying that the government will pay for the difference between the actual price for grain and the government set 12 thousand roubles per tonne in the first quarter of the year.

A 15 percent top limit of profitability has been introduced for all bakeries.

In the meantime, Russian agriculture drastically lacks finances for the spring sowing campaign, according to Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun.

He told a press conference on Wednesday that the government intends to order all enterprises to allocate three percent of the cost of marketed products to agriculture.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin Names Team To Organize Referendum

PM0402164393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

["Directive of the President of the Russian Federation on Measures To Support the All-Russia Referendum of 11 April 1993", plus appendix]

[Text] In accordance with Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree No. 4921-1 "On measures to ensure the conduct of the all-Russia referendum of 11 April 1993," dated 14 January 1993, and with the aim of ensuring organizational, financial, material, and technical support for the preparation and conduct of the All-Russia Referendum on the Basic Provisions of the New Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation:

1. A Government Commission To Support the Preparation and Conduct of the All-Russia Referendum on the Basic Provision of the New Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation shall be formed.

2. V.F. Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the government of the Russian Federation, shall be appointed chairman of the government commission.

3. The personnel of the government commission shall be confirmed in accordance with the appendix.

4. The basic tasks of the government commission shall be established as follows: to coordinate the work of the central organs of federal executive power and the organs of state power of the constituent republics of the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg in providing organizational, financial, material, and technical support for the preparation and conduct of the all-Russia referendum; to provide assistance to the Central Commission of the All-Russia Referendum and district commissions of the all-Russia referendum in the execution of their assigned tasks.

5. The government commission shall carry out an analysis of the draft basic provisions of the new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation presented by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation for agreement and the stances of political parties, public organizations, and mass movements on the all-Russia referendum questions and shall submit appropriate proposals.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 2 February 1993

Directive No. 70

Appendix to Directive No. 70 of the President of the Russian Federation of 2 February 1993

The members of the Government Commission To Support the Preparation and Conduct of the All-Russia Referendum on the Basic Provisions of the New Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation are as follows:

V.F. Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the government of the Russian Federation (chairman of the commission);

S.A Filatov, leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation (deputy chairman of the commission);

S.M. Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers—the government of the Russian Federation—and chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy;

Yu.F. Yarov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the government of the Russian Federation;

Ye.P. Arefyev, deputy leader of the apparatus of the Council of Ministers, the government of the Russian Federation (secretary of the commission);

V.P. Barannikov, minister of security of the Russian Federation;

V.V. Barchuk, minister of finances of the Russian Federation;

V.B. Bulgak, minister of communications of the Russian Federation;

V.F. Yerin, minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation;

V.B. Yefimov, minister of transport of the Russian Federation;

G.M. Fadeyev, minister of railways of the Russian Federation;

M.A. Fedotov, minister of press and information of the Russian Federation;

A.A. Kokoshin, first deputy minister of defense of the Russian Federation;

M.Ye. Nikolayev, president of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia);

A.Ya. Sliva, official representative of the president of the Russian Federation for legal questions in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation;

A.S. Tyazhlov, head of administration of Moscow Oblast and chairman of the Russian Union of Leaders of Territorial Organs of Executive Power;

and V.A. Kirpichnikov, chairman of the Union of Russian Cities.

Yeltsin Given Conflicting Advice on Referendum

PM0402164193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Referendum. The Clock Is Running"]

[Excerpt] During discussions with Russian President Boris Yeltsin 2 February Vice Premiers V. Shumeyko and S. Shakhray unanimously defended the need to hold an all-Russian referendum 11 April.

At the same time, it has been learned from informed sources that Constitutional Court Chairman V. Zorkin, who took part in the discussion, spoke against holding a nationwide poll. He argued that the president was not receiving full information about the situation in the country. Recent sociological surveys of the population and statements from many political leaders show that there is a need to think seriously and realize what unpredictable consequences the desire to organize a plebiscite 11 April at all costs could lead to. [passage omitted]

Rumyantsev Warns Against Republics' Questions on Referendum

OW0302172893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Constitutional Commission Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev on Wednesday pointed out the danger of allowing the constituent republics of the Russian Federation to include their own questions in the nationwide referendum called for 11 April and thereby use federal funds to take local polls. At a Wednesday session of the Parliamentary Coalition for Reform, Rumyantsev reported a recent appeal from Karelian Supreme Council Chairman Viktor Stepanov to Russian Supreme Council Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov in which the Karelian leader proposed that the following question be included in the referendum: "Do you support the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation as a multinational federative state in which relations are defined by the Federative Treaty and bilateral agreements between the federal organs of state authority and local authorities in constituent republics?" Rumyantsev sees Karelia as one of the links of the Petrozavodsk-Kazan-Ufa-Yakutsk axis and believes that such a structure supports the remaining republics of the Russian Federation. If this is disturbed, warned Rumyantsev, the Russian federation may share the fate of the Soviet Union, and a "treaty-based formation of the CIS type" may emerge in place of the Russian Federation.

Filatov Comments on Referendum Issues

LD0302232393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1840 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Interview with Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, chief of the Russian president's administration, by Natalya Chernyshova; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Chernyshova] Sergey Aleksandrovich, while the whole of society has been discussing whether it is worthwhile and expedient to hold a referendum, the president has issued a law on measures to provide for an all-Russia referendum. That is to say, he is insisting on the speech that he delivered at the Congress.

[Filatov] The president's law has indeed been signed, but it has been signed in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Soviet on the holding of a referendum. The congress decided that a referendum would be held. Then, to carry out the decision of the congress, the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision. Now the president's law appears to be carrying out the decision of the Supreme Soviet.

[Chernyshova] However, everyone remembers well Boris Nikolayevich's speech at the congress, when he made his appeal to the people.

[Filatov] Indeed, that is the root of the matter and the most important thing, because the president was proposing quite a different referendum at the congress. The president was talking about a referendum to determine whether we would carry out economic reform and how and with whom it would be done. We are currently talking about a totally different referendum—a referendum on the basic principles of the new constitution.

I also think that this is not the real issue that should concern the country at the present time. It is simply that now, through these issues, we can get at the main sore issue for our society at present, an issue that is preventing us from developing our economic reforms. This sore issue is the ever-growing struggle between the structures of power.

You and I have determined—and I have always considered that it is the greatest achievement of the Congress of People's Deputies—that we separated the powers and said that there are now three powers in our country that are independent of each other. However, by not fulfilling the will of the people when the people expressed themselves in favor of the president, the Congress of People's Deputies did not limit its powers and has remained the highest body

of state power. This may, at any moment, be a threat to any of the branches of power, including the presidential branch.

Whereas the people believed that the president should have a strong structure of power that could carry out economic reforms during this difficult period, we can see how this power is being shackled and restricted with every passing day. We have been nibbling away at this power bit-by-bit. This has also occurred via the budget. Then, of course, the president becomes anxious—and we all become anxious—about how to proceed further with the reforms and about how we are to live in the future.

Therefore, if one is to speak in general about the referendum, I would say the following: By making use of the future setup of constitutional power in our country, it would also be possible to resolve our present problems and to give a precise answer to the main issue that is troubling and worrying society at present. This issue is not allowing society to proceed with economic reforms and is hampering us from conducting them. Specifically, this issue is how to get away from the confrontation of powers and how to divide them in such a way so that the legislators occupy themselves specifically with legislation and the executive authorities engage themselves with executive matters. That is what we are talking about.

[Chernyshova] We are still back to the president's statement through this complicated means. So, what questions or what articles in the constitution will be included in the referendum, in the questionnaire on the referendum?

[Filatov] First, it is the Supreme Soviet that should be the first to present this, because the instructions of the congress are clearly written that the Supreme Soviet should endorse the list of questions agreed upon with the president and the Constitutional Court. It seems to me that first and foremost will be the question of the demarcation of powers, without a doubt. I believe that there should also be questions connected with the Federation Treaty, because the Federation Treaty is an integral part of any constitution we may adopt. This question is of concern to our republic.

The third question—there is also an argument going on about this today—is whether to create a founding assembly or something else to adopt a constitution. It would seem to me more precise to call it a constitutional assembly, which should today adopt a constitution. Perhaps, this is the third question that should be put to the people, and it is: Who should adopt the constitution?

Khasbulatov has introduced the fourth question, the question of early elections. I think that it would, perhaps, be a little bit dishonest to put the question in this way. I would also refer this question to the constitutional assembly, which should determine the fate of the constitution. Let them decide how the leaders of today should be reelected in the future. The fact that they cannot be reelected at the same time is obvious. Society is not that rich that it allows us to create a vacuum of power at a time when there will be neither representative nor executive power. Therefore, these elections must clearly be held. Perhaps it will be necessary to hold them earlier, but I would refer this question to the constitutional assembly to decide.

[Chernyshova] Sergey Aleksandrovich, will this constitutional assembly, as you call it, be a kind of fourth or fifth power?

[Filatov] No, there are special conditions for election to the constitutional assembly. That is what it is called—the constitutional assembly that meets just to adopt a constitution. It has, incidentally, spread to many countries. For our country, however, it has the significance that people should be elected there who, over the course of five years, make a commitment that they will not engage in political activity or will not occupy any offices. That is the principle behind it. In other words, the next generation to come to power in five years' time.

[Chernysheva] The experience of a referendum in our country is an unhappy one, more or less. At one time, everyone was in favor of the Soviet Union; then, just as harmoniously they rejected it. Each time people said that the questions in the referendum were not worded precisely. Who will be working on the wording of these questions? Will they be worded in such a way that an unambiguous answer can be given and so that they cannot be interpreted in any other way?

[Filatov] Well, in any event, the Supreme Soviet is currently working on the questions. I believe that the group is headed by (Ilya Oblomtsev), who is chairman, and that the questions must, of course, be clearly worded. Although I understand that a campaign is going on at the moment to see that the Supreme Soviet does the wording from the left and the president from the right.

Many others are waging another campaign. They say, let us put Khasbulatov's wording in one color and Yeltsin's wording in another and then vote for this or that color. Therefore, the fundamental issue that exists to my mind is, nevertheless, being decided in principle. Everything about which there is speculation at present on the part of political parties and individual leaders and, so to speak, our statesmen is nonetheless speculation, because it still seems to me that, if we are concerned about the affairs of state, we should perceive the main issue, which is at present preventing us from advancing in a calm atmosphere. We are being hampered by our lack of accord. If we had realized this, perhaps we might have gotten by without a referendum and achieved this constitutional agreement in conjunction with the Constitutional Court. However, it seems—to judge by the speeches—that many people do not desire this accord.

[Chernyshova] What number or what percentage of Russia's citizens are required to hold a referendum?

[Filatov] Fifty-one percent, or rather 50 percent plus one vote is required from the total number of the electorate.

[Chernyshova] What about the money that you are intending to spend, or the Supreme Soviet is intending to spend?

[Filatov] Well, it is the money at the disposal of the Supreme Soviet. As far as I know, the estimate that has been approved so far—according to the existing figures—is for 20 billion rubles. One should bear in mind, however, the fact that this money is not in 1991 or 1992 terms but in 1993 terms. It takes into account the inflation that has occurred throughout this period.

[Chernysheva] Could there perhaps be a situation where the money spent on holding a referendum would have been wasted? Say that the papers have been printed and dispatched, all the organizational commissions have been at work, and then suddenly the people do not come along for the referendum?

[Filatov] That is a good question. If we proceed with the formulations that we received from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in the form that they exist, it will be difficult for the people to understand them, because they are both not very comprehensible and to my mind they are not very much connected with the specifics of life. I think that many things here are artificial. That is what I think, and I think I am not wrong in this view. This is because, unfortunately, many positions are not based on state interests. Sometimes they are based on personal interests. This has always been the case in history and, unfortunately, it remains so today.

[Chernyshova] It seems that while we are now holding a referendum, we are also being dragged along by these personal interests.

[Filatov] You know, to some extent that is true—to some extent. Officially, however, in the Constitution—in Articles 104 and 109—they officially give full rights to one power to actually squeeze out and do what they like with other branches of power. I even think that the Constitutional Court is not being particularly active because it is also in a state of imbalance in relation to the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies. So, I know that there are threats not to meddle in our affairs, and so forth. It seems as if this is hindering all of us, and we must put a stop to it. How we do it is another matter. We must find a way, though. The most correct and effective way is undoubtedly a referendum. Is it possible to find other ways? Probably it is, but this means bringing political forces into line. The main thing is to find a desire on their part to find a solution to this question.

Stankevich Urges Interim Constitution

PM0402132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Sergey Stankevich, adviser to the president on political questions: "Let's Kick the Revolution Habit—Sergey Stankevich, Russian Presidential Adviser on Political Questions, on the Forthcoming Referendum"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The day before yesterday, Sergey Stankevich appeared on a television program entitled "Moment of Truth." The conversation, the nature of which was predetermined by the presenter's distinctive approach, took place under the motto: "Conformism or Radicalism." Despite Stankevich's continual emphasis on how, as a politician, his task is to listen to the other side, including those whose views he does not share, the presenter did not really allow the politician to speak and gave a more vivid portrayal of himself than the interviewee.

Sergey Stankevich's position may become clearer once the reader has taken a look at the article we are publishing below.

[Stankevich begins] Today two themes dominate our political life: the referendum, and the increasingly powerful campaign in support of a constituent assembly.

I believe that the decision to hold a referendum was the result of an enforced compromise, with inevitable losses for all involved. Of course it would have been better to avoid the situation where this kind of compromise became necessary. Now is not the most propitious time for a referendum on contentious political issues.

There exists in our society a whole set of hidden contradictions, and, if a catalyst such as a referendum appears, they rise up to the surface and may play the role of a destabilizing factor. Going back to the beginning of December, you can understand that it would have been far more correct to avoid the referendum as a means of resolving political conflict between the authorities. Nevertheless, political rivalry in December assumed such a sharp character that the question of a referendum was somehow decided in advance, and moreover within the package of documents for the compromise agreement concluded at the Congress. You know, there is an item in it stating that none of the statutes can be examined in isolation. Therefore, if the referendum is rejected now, the entire compromise package will crumble, and we will return to the situation which we left behind at such cost.

The referendum could still take place now: It only requires that a formula be found which reinforces rather than destroys statehood. So what approaches are the destructive ones now? Those which prompt an exacerbation of the struggle between the three main, active political forces: the executive, the representative power, and the 20 republics within Russia. These are now the three—and the main—elements in the political drama in Russia. If the formula being submitted for referendum causes the struggle between these three forces to intensify, then the referendum will scarcely take place, and the actual campaign surrounding it will strike a mighty blow against our already weak statehood. It is for this reason that a formula must be submitted for referendum which, if nothing else, is acceptable to these three forces. From my viewpoint it is scarcely possible to submit the fundamentals of the constitutional order for approval at the referendum now. The fact is that we have not yet convinced the republics within Russia of the need for certain key clauses. For instance, the validity of the Russian Federation Constitution across the entire territory of our country, and the ineffectiveness of any acts which contradict the Russian Federation Constitution (remember some republic declarations, constitutions, and laws!)

For us, the principles of a unified constitutional and legal area for Russia are clear and unshakable, but at this stage the republics, preoccupied with further legitimizing their own sovereignty, are unlikely to be reconciled to this. Thus, even an ostensibly indisputable formula will almost inevitably lead to the referendum's breaking down on some parts of Russian territory.

I remain an advocate of submitting for referendum the long-overdue question of early elections to the federal parliament. This could partly resolve the protracted crisis in relations between the authorities. Our parliament, with its complex "two-tier" system, loses the most important function of a legislature—its representativeness. Hence instability, wavering positions, susceptibility to internal and external influences, and many other problems. Unfortunately, the current Constitution does not provide for holding early elections. This is a major minus, because this statute does exist in the constitutions of many countries with a form of state structure close to ours. Thus the only possibility of introducing the institution of early elections is to ratify it through a referendum (the likelihood of a straightforward submission of a constitutional amendment on early elections at the Congress is extremely remote.) That is, the first question on the referendum questionnaire must be a question about early elections.

The second question is: To which organ of power are we going to prematurely elect deputies? It hardly makes sense to elect a new line-up for the Congress, as by far the most effective form of parliamentarianism is still a professional, permanently operating legislative organ. With deputies who work only in parliament, without being distracted by some other activity.

The third question must concern the level of powers given to elected deputies. This question presupposes some degree of conflict, and at worst they may be removed.

In this way we will begin a gradual political reform, a gradual transformation of our political system which presupposes evolutionary change without the excessive destabilization of the existing system of authority. This should be quite rationally perceived by today's deputies too. I think that the majority of them, having shown themselves to be serious political activists who represent the interests of their electorate and specified political tendencies, will be reelected. Nowadays, people are unlikely to start voting for the "dark horses" merely as a sign of protest, and they will not tolerate extreme tendencies. The development of political events is now working in favor of the centrist forces and rejects new-style radicalism. It is possible to go into elections with a view to obtaining a parliament which is moderately centrist, pragmatic, less susceptible to struggles between extreme wings, and less vulnerable, that is, far more practical. In my view, the referendum should open up the way to early elections for us.

Another question exercising the intellect is this: Who should be entrusted with adopting the Constitution—the Congress, the Supreme Soviet, or a constituent assembly? At the moment, a lively discussion is under way around the constituent assembly idea. Such well-known politicians as Gavriil Popov and Galina Starovoytova have spoken in favor of it: Many parties and groupings of a democratic bent have also associated themselves with this idea. For my part, I would like to say that I am not against the constituent assembly idea. It is, in itself, wholly attractive. We are beginning to form a new chain of legitimacy: from the fundamental act to everything which stems from it. The "first act of democratic creativity" should be organized in the appropriate way: The most worthy citizens should be elected to adopt a single, unanimous decision, never more to participate in politics. This is what a constituent assembly is elected for, and it, without being involved in day-to-day political passions, and without hurrying, thoroughly discusses the new Constitution. The result is a Fundamental Law dazzling in its perfection, which will be passed on from generation to generation. Who can object to such a development of events?

This plan has a mass of worthy points, and only one shortcoming: It is unrealistic in today's circumstances. We, unfortunately, have already set out on another path toward legitimizing new social relations. Russia is a unique federation, made up of 20 republics which have each proclaimed themselves sovereign states and adopted a declaration of sovereignty. In many of them, constitutions based on the declaration of sovereignty have already been adopted. The republics have begun to form their own chain of legitimacy. This process, in many respects, runs counter to the tasks of constructing a normal, federal statehood. But this is the reality which has to be contended with. And what is being proposed to the republics? That they elect a constituent assembly which, by its very definition, will contain a majority from Russian regions, and that this constituent assembly adopt a constitution for the whole federation and lay the foundation of a new general federal system of legitimacy. This constitution will discard what has been created in the republics on the basis of their declarations of sovereignty. Can you imagine a situation right now where the republics would agree to hold elections to a constituent assembly on their territory? It is a pity but, if implemented, this attractive idea could, be fatal for our already fairly battered statehood. Something less risky needs to be sought.

Furthermore, at present we are not, indeed, quite ready to adopt a constitution which will operate for 200 years. The Poles acted very sensibly. They, too, were embroiled in the same situation as we at the outset. In their country, too, there was exhausting conflict between the authorities, endless clarifications of relations between the president, the parliament, and the government, and battles over a new constitution. They arrived at the only possible decision: The adoption of a constitution which would span a century was "postponed sine die," and a so-called "short constitution" was "adopted pro tem." It only resolves one question, but it is the most important one—the division of powers, and their interaction. The introduction of the "short Constitution" promoted political stabilization. We, too, could embark on this option: We could adopt our own "short Constitution," valid for a transition period right until the adoption of a full-fledged fundamental law. The matters covered by the "short Constitution" need only

concern federal organs of power, thus eliminating conflict with the republics. The old Constitution will continue to operate for all other questions.

Who should adopt the "short Constitution"? Given that it is very complex to implement the idea of a constituent assembly, the adoption of an interim constitutional law could once again be undertaken by the elected, professional parliament.

Should such a plan be adopted, the political calendar would look like this: Spring—the referendum; then, given a favorable outcome, another Congress, which brings the Constitution into line with the referendum results, adopts a statute on the professional parliament, and adds a statute concerning early elections; then the Supreme Soviet adopts a new election law, after which we enter into the period of election campaigning.

Of course, this way holds some risk too. Various proposals can already be heard: Let us reelect the president, and the soviets at all levels, as well as the parliament! Perhaps there would indeed be some sense in holding elections for the soviets, and for administration heads at kray and oblast level. But in no event would I begin to drag the president into this. Come on, let us kick the revolution habit once and for all. A total change of power at all levels right now will carry with it enormous, unimaginable risks. During the period of election campaigns, the president could act as a guarantor of continuity, a minimum of stability. It is necessary to think not of party or group interests, but of the interests of the state. Otherwise there will be a repeat of the 1917 situation, where the inability of parties favoring the parliamentary, democratic option to agree and to choose the interests of the state as priority was demonsrated. This, unfortunately, is again on the horizon today.

The scenario I have proposed is by nature a compromise at which I hope that the main political forces will arrive as a result of selecting from various alternatives.

Political Issues

Committee Working on Structural Changes Within Presidency

OW0302175593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Yeltsin administration is continuing work on structural changes within Russian presidency (Refer to PB [Presidential Bulletin] 258). Reliable sources say that the reorganization will take place in several key directions, as envisaged by the president's constitutional rights. The question is one of the president's discharge of duties as head of the state and government, guarantor of the country's integrity and compliance with the federal treaty, as well as his legislative and controlling powers.

The reorganization plan is aimed at structural division of presidential bodies to make them work as one team to ensure closer cooperation between the head of state and the public.

It is now known that the presidential structure provides for more than 50 different institutions and departments. The top tier includes the Vice-President; the Government; the Federal Information Centre; the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information; the Federal Intelligence Service; The Federation Council including the councils of heads of the republics and chief administrators; the Presidential Council; the Security Council; presidential commissions and a monitoring council.

It is also envisaged that presidential advisers will work hand in hand with the following departments: policy planning, social and economic policies, public relations, presidential programmes and defence and security strategy planning. The Federation Council is expected to coordinate work with the departments for the president's representatives, liaison with the Supreme Soviet and deputies, government service and personnel policies. As part of the president's controlling functions, the plan provides for a monitoring department, federal department for nuclear safety, government technological commission, and committee for the compliance with agreements on banning chemical and biological weapons. Under the proposed plan, the Federal Agency for Land and Agrarian Reform (now run by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy—Interfax) is to become part of the presidential structure.

Others include a state and law department, a financial and economic management department, business correspondence, information-analytical centre, information technologies, operative information service, the president's library and archives.

Suggestions are also being made for executive power-sharing between the president and the government because of the need for continuity of policies and fulfillment of the president's will in any government shake up.

Ex-Minister Pavlov Says Coup Idea on 'Agenda Since 1990'

LD0202135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Although Valentin Pavlov, former Soviet prime minister and an organiser of the foiled hard- line coup in August 1991, says that he learned about the conspiracy only two days before it actually took place, he insists that the plot could not have been prepared in one day and has been on the agenda since 1990.

In an exclusive interview with the Italian "FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA" weekly to be published on Wednesday, Pavlov said that he had learned about the coming introduction of a state of emergency in the former Soviet Union at a meeting with Vladimir Kryuchkov, former KGB chief,

and other top military and security brass on August 17. The coup began two days later.

"But it is only a fool who can believe that our "plot" was organised in one day", Pavlov said in an interview received by TASS from the Moscow correspondent of the weekly. "The problem of the 'state of emergency' was on the agenda from 1990 when the USSR embarked on a path similar to that of Poland with the same strikes of miners and economic difficulties", he added.

On August 17 Kryuchkov called Pavlov and said they need to talk. "I was greatly interested to speak with Kryuchkov on the situation in Kuzbass (the main Russian coal region) where a wave of strikes was imminent", he said.

However, the meeting, also attended by former Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, focused on the creation of the Committee for the State of Emergency in the Country.

Pavlov unambiguously hinted that former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev knew what the meeting was devoted to. During the discussion Kryuchkov spoke for half an hour with Gorbachev by telephone, as the president was on vacation in the Crimea. When Kryuchkov returned back to the table, "he extended Gorbachev's wishes of good work to us. I absolutely exclude the possibility that Gorbachev did not ask or did not know what we have gathered for", Pavlov stressed.

"We were all at the top of the state, we knew well every mechanism: If we had decided to introduce a state of emergency without Gorbachev we would have acted completely differently in August 1991", Pavlov said, adding that they were acting as if Gorbachev was among them.

Pavlov said he realised that Gorbachev is changing his position on the night before the coup. "I did not already trust him, but when I learned that he was ill and did not come back to Moscow with the others, I realised what was happening", he explained.

He added that nobody from among the plotters ordered tanks to Moscow and said that the name of the person who had given the order would be made public during the trial which begins on April 14.

Pavlov was absent from the only press conference which the coup plotters had held. Many observers qualified it as an attempt to distance himself from what was taking place. It was later reported that Pavlov was heavily drinking at the time.

"This is like the meeting of (August) 17", Pavlov told the correspondent of the "FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA" while talking to him at a small table with tea, coffee and biscuits. "However, there was also a bottle", he added.

Pavlov was released from the "Seamen's Rest" investigation prison to await trial at home. "I have nothing to repent, maybe only that I have failed to do something to avert the current situation (in the country)", he said.

Yeltsin's Would-Be Assassin's 'Story' Assessed

PM0302174393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Roman Zadunayskiy: "Was He Or Wasn't He? Details of the Story of the Attempt on the President's Life"]

[Text] This cultured, rather puny 33-year-old man could not have been less like a criminal plotting a political assassination.

Nonetheless, if one is to believe what he says, of course, day by day for nearly a month he shadowed and kept stealing up on the Russian president, like a hunter stalking game, with the intention of blowing him up with a bomb or stabbing him with a knife.

During the very first interrogation at the Moscow Garrison Military Prosecutor's Office Major Ivan Vasilyevich Kislov said: "I came to Moscow 1 January 1993 for the purpose of assassinating Russian President Boris Yeltsin." At the moment the charge made against him by the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is based on the suspect's confession, and the Russian Federation general prosecutor's investigation team for specially important cases will have to prove his guilt.

The Kislov case is a quaint blend of naivety, "romance," and logic. He comes from an intellectual family background. He served in the Far East Military District—a fine specialist, according to colleagues. His fellow soldiers had nothing bad to say about him.

On 24 December Maj Ivan Kislov took the train to Moscow, carrying two smoke-puff charges of the detonating type, manufactured by himself and packed with ball bearings.

The major initially "took up residence" in Kazanskiy Station. But he was driven out by Caucasians who tried to rob the cultured "vagrant" during the night. The major then moved to Belorusskiy Station. Putting the smoke-puff charges in the pockets of his jacket, he went round the capital questioning Muscovites, in an effort to establish where the president lives.

On 15 January Kislov got caught in a shower of sleety rain and his jacket and smoke-puff charges became sodden. It was then that he emptied out the bombs' contents and threw them away, deciding to use a knife.

Like a spy in the movies, Kislov would hover around the entrance, watching the residents entering the block, and was thus able to work out the lock code. Then, at 0200 hours 17 January, Kislov opened the entrance door and entered the lobby. On hearing the inner door creak, the guard came out and asked the major what he wanted. His reply was that he had been told there was a hotel in the block. The guard informed Kislov where he might find a hotel, and the latter thanked him and left quietly.

But Kislov continued to hang around the block, seeing who went in and who went out. He learned a great deal. He

concluded that B.N. Yeltsin's car entered the block via an underground tunnel and he would not be able to get to the president there. So Kislov decided to locate him in the Russian Government building on Old Square, since, as he saw it, the president had to be there sometime.

The building on Ilinka Street which adjoins the government complex is covered with scaffolding—renovation work is in progress. Kislov decided to climb the scaffolding and get into the loft, wait for the workers to arrive, pretend he was one of them, and then go down into the inner courtyard. He would wait for Yeltsin to arrive and get out of his car, then he would suddenly attack him and knife him.

At 0530 hours 27 January the major climbed the scaffolding onto the roof of the building and got through a window into the loft. There he hid, waiting for the workers to arrive. But he was caught by a government complex security guard at 0700 hours. The guard did not believe Kislov's story that he was a "snow clearer." He demanded his papers and called for reinforcements. Kislov did not resist arrest and did not try to escape. He was dispatched to the Moscow Military Commandant's Office, where Kislov explained his behavior by saying that he did not want to serve in the army. But for the most part he remained silent. When he was searched he was found to be carrying a knife. On 29 January Kislov said he wanted to make a statement.

On 30 January, during interrogation at the Moscow Garrison Military Prosecutor's Office, Ivan Kislov made his stunning confession, and Major General of Justice Leonid Obyektov, Moscow Military Garrison military prosecutor, arrested him. Maj I.V. Kislov was charged under three articles: 15, 66 part 1, and 246 point "C" of the Russian Criminal Code, that is, planning a murder, act of terrorism, and absence without leave from a military unit for a period of more than a month.

Maybe Kislov slandered himself because he wanted to be in the spotlight. Although such "screwballs" usually toss a bottle of ink into the Mausoleum or, having donned an extra layer of clothing, sprinkle themselves with kerosene in Red Square, threatening to set fire to themselves, or, at worst, climb onto the empty plinth of the Dzerzhinskiy memorial in Lubyanka Square, chain themselves to it, and spout oaths. And they do it immediately on arriving in Moscow. Kislov spent nearly a month meticulously and manically shadowing the president. As an officer he could have obtained and brought with him a pistol or something more substantial, but he opted for the "romantic" recipe of the would-be assassins of Czar Alexander, by making a bomb.

But this has a logic of its own: If Kislov had gone missing with his own car, worse still, with a stolen weapon, other means would have been used to find him. And it is not so ridiculous to use a knife: Many very carefully guarded men have succumbed to knives. Only recently, the well-known German politician Lafontaine was seriously wounded by a knife wielded by a crazy woman. By pushing to the front of the crowd of people gaping at the president whenever he goes among the people, Kislov could easily have struck the president. At the German unification anniversary celebrations a "supporter of the GDR" suddenly broke through the cordon of stunned security guards and drove his fist hard into the stomach of FRG Chancellor H. Kohl.

Boris Yeltsin was lucky that his path did not cross Kislov's crooked path (if, of course, everything was as he said it was) at a theater somewhere, at a rally, or in a plant shop.

But the main thing is the motive. Ivan Kislov blames Boris Yeltsin for all Russia's ills and for its present difficult economic situation, and he also holds him responsible for the ethnic discord and the victims of the conflicts. He says the president has betrayed the interests of socialism and believes that the results of the 12 June 1991 elections were "falsified and rigged." One might object strongly to this. But that is not the point. As Moscow Garrison Military Prosecutor Leonid Obyektov, the lawyer who was the first to grill the criminal, said, the political struggle can only be waged by legal means. In a civilized, rule-of-law state there can be no place for terrorism, and whatever form it takes the Russian law-enforcement organs will certainly put a stop to it.

Decree on Citizens' Foreign Travel Issued

PM0402114593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 93 First Edition p 5

["Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government Decree No 73, 28 January 1993, Moscow, on Measures To Provide for the Right of Russian Federation Citizens To Freely Leave Its Territory and Return Without Hindrance and To Improve the Procedure Covering Business Trips Abroad"]

[Text] In view of the fact that as of 1 January 1993 the 20 May 1991 USSR Law "On the procedure covering USSR citizens' entry into the USSR and exit from the USSR" applies to the territory of the Russian Federation until the corresponding Russian Federation law is adopted and in order to improve the procedure for sending working people on official trips, the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government decrees:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, in consultation with the Russian Federation Ministry of Security and Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is to approve and bring into effect as of 30 January 1993 temporary rules for drawing up and issuing passports to Russian Federation citizens. The aforementioned rules are to be published.

The procedure for issuing and drawing up diplomatic and official passports and sailors' passports is regulated by different rules.

2. In order to obtain passports, organizations arranging business trips will apply to the state organs that are authorized to issue these documents. In order to ascertain possible grounds for temporary restrictions on the right to leave the Russian Federation these organs will coordinate matters pertaining to people going abroad with the state security organs.

3. The right to make decisions about working people going on business trips abroad when they are in possession of information that constitutes a state secret is granted to:

a) leaders of federal executive power central organs—in respect of working people of these organs and also of their enterprises, institutions, and organizations;

b) heads of administrations of krays, oblasts, autonomous entities, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg or the commissions set up by them for these purposes—in respect of working people of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on the corresponding territory, aside from working people mentioned in subsection "a" of this point;

c) heads of the relevant administrations—in respect of working people of these executive organs.

Decisions regarding working people of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on the territory of republics in the Russian Federation, who are in possession of information that constitutes a state secret, aside from working people mentioned in subsection "a" of this point, are made in accordance with the procedure laid down by the governments of these republics.

4. Ministries and departments, enterprises, institutions, and organizations have 10 days to submit to the relevant state security organs findings on what information, constituting a state secret, is in the possession of people applying for passports and an opinion on the possibility of their going abroad and, if there are grounds for temporary restrictions on their going abroad, indicate the duration of the restrictions.

5. It is to be laid down that a note will be made in a Russian Federation citizen's identity card indicating that the citizen has been issued with a passport.

6. Russian Federation citizens and organizations will independently apply to foreign states' diplomatic missions and consular establishments in the Russian Federation to obtain visas for passports.

7. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments, are to hold talks with authoritative organs of the CIS states on the procedure for issuing passports to Russian Federation citizens living on the territory of other states in the CIS, and documents to citizens of these states living on the territory of Russia. The relevant proposals are to be submitted in accordance with the established procedure.

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Security, is to consider the matter of increasing the staffs of the relevant departments of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs and Russian Federation Ministry of Security and on improving their material and technical provision in view of the increased work load dealing with Russian citizens traveling abroad, and the relevant proposals are to be submitted to the Russian Federation Government.

9. The Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry of Security, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, are to submit proposals on making changes to legislation in connection with the fact that the USSR Law "On the procedure covering USSR citizens' entry into the USSR and exit from the USSR" now applies to the territory of the Russian Federation and with the adoption of this decree.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government

Military & Space Issues

Moscow Exchange To Handle Sale of Military Property

MK0402140093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Sergey Klyuchenkov report: "Defense Ministry To Trade on Commodity Exchange. Moscow Chamber of Commerce Offers Army Property for Sale"]

[Text] Ten billion rubles [R] worth of military property due to be sold in 1993 under an edict by the Russian president and directives by the defense minister will be offered for bidding by the Moscow Chamber of Commerce exchange, spokesmen for the exchange said yesterday at a press conference held after the signing of a general agreement between the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and the Specialized State-Owned Self-Accounting Enterprise of the Russian Defense Ministry. According to observers, this is the first time that the military has resorted to the services of a commodity exchange to implement its commercial projects.

The general agreement, entitled "On granting the preferential right to organize tenders and auctions for the sale of military property to the Moscow Chamber of Commerce exchange as a commercial organization directly associated with defense sector enterprises," was signed on 1 February further to Russian presidential edict No. 1518 dated 30 November 1992, "On the procedure for selling and utilizing property released from military use." According to the agreement, hardware converted for civilian use, and military supplies and equipment, with the exception of weapons and ammunition, will be sold by tender. Spokesmen for the Moscow Chamber of Commerce said that the first tender, at which more than R1 billion of military property is to be offered for sale, is scheduled for 23 February (KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report the results on 24 February). The parties to the agreement are expected to agree by 6 February on a list of equipment and properties to be offered to the exchange brokers.

The spokesmen did not try to conceal the fact that the Moscow Chamber of Commerce managed to acquire the status of an institution "directly associated with the defense sector enterprises" thanks to its merger last year with the Konversiya [Conversion] exchange, whose stockholders included large defense enterprises such as the NPO

[Scientific Production Association] Energiya, the Tula Arms Factory, the Saratov Aviation Factory, the Transmash factory, and the Kvantor and LOMO [expansion unknown] associations. According to Andrey Alekseyev, chief broker of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce, when the merger with Konversiya was being considered, its ties with the military-industrial complex and the Defense Ministry proved decisive for the exchange's stockholders and management.

News Conference Discusses Space Flight

LD0302224892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1656 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 February—During the space flight which lasted from 27 July 1992 to 1 February 1993, a series of scientific, technical, technological, medico-biological, and astrophysical research projects and experiments was conducted, said Yuriy Glazkov, head of the Center for Cosmonaut Training, at a press conference held in Zvezdnyy Gorodok today. He introduced to journalists Anatoliy Solovyev and Sergey Avdeyev, the crew of the 12th main expedition who came back two days ago. For example, a series of observations was completed as part of the international astrophysical research project "Roentgen." A long-term experiment enetitled "Condor" was carried out, the purpose of which was to ensure constant monitoring of the radiological situation, taking into consideration neutron radiation in the premises of the manned complex.

Sergey Avdeyev told journalists at the news conference that during the expedition chicks hatched out from quail eggs in the station. The experiment, performed on the Incubator-2 biotechnological equipment, was aimed at studying embryological development of birds in conditions of weightlessness.

At the moment the crew members are under strict supervision of doctors who report that the readaptation period of the participants of the protracted expedition is proceeding normally.

Regional Affairs

Kulikov on Chechnya Situation, Criticizes Dudayev

MK0302131593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "An 'Evil Empire' in the Caucasus"]

[Text] "The time has come to remove the veil from Mr. Dudayev's face," Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the Russian Federation Interior Ministry troops, told a news briefing yesterday. "Power came to him on bayonets."

According to the commander, 610 killings were committed in Chechnya in 1992. This is more than in neighboring Rostov Oblast with a population five times as large. Documents were presented to journalists indicating that the terrorists who broke into the Makhachkala city court building on 11 January firing automatic rifles were "people from Dudayev's close entourage." One of them—Dzhabrailov—was actually chief of the Chechen president's bodyguard service. Kulikov said that according to some reports, 70 unidentified corpses were secretly buried in Groznyy recently. In the last few days in Makhachkala two armored personnel carriers belonging to training center No. 78 in Groznyy, which had passed "into the jurisdiction" of the Chechen republic, were detained. "How can one possibly avoid sealing Chechnya off as long as firearms are circulating so easily in the republic?" the commander exclaimed angrily.

At present the Interior Ministry troops are organized on a district principle. District No. 1 is the North Caucasus, where the requisite facilities are hastily being put in place. In April, the mountain passes will be open, and Confederation combatants, loaded with weapons, will be returning to their homes from Abkhaziya and Karabakh. Overall, the Interior Ministry forces include 270,000 people, around 35,000 of whom are in the Northern Caucasus.

Dudayev on Kulikov's Allegations

OW0302142293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1401 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen President, Dzhokhar Dudayev, considers the statement by the commander of the Russian Interior Forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anatoliy Kulikov, as an open provocation aimed at heightening the tension between Russia and Chechnya.

A statement by the press service of the president distributed in Groznyy on Wednesday [3 February] says that the allegations made by Major-General Kulikov at a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday on the complex criminal situation in Chechnya and that Chechnya is sending its terrorists to neighboring republics to commit criminal acts "is a naked pressure on the Chechen side with the aim of getting the maximal concession in the process of negotiations on the normalization of relations between the two republics".

The Chechen Foreign Ministry considered the statement by the commander of the interior forces as "going beyond the limits of his competence" and "interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Chechen Republic". The note with this content was forwarded to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday. Movladiy Udugov, the minister of the press and information of Chechnya, in an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday said that in his opinion "in the Russian leadership in recent times forces which are staking on the use of force in resolving the Chechen question are once more prevailing."

Dudayev on 'Anti-Chechen Propaganda'

LD0302200693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 3 TASS—Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has accused Russia's leadership on Wednesday [3 February] of pursuing the policy of state terrorism against the Chechen people, encouraging plundering and flooding the republic with weapons and drugs.

A statement issued by the Chechen presidential press service on Wednesday described recent reports by the Russian mass media that the Chechen Republic is a source of tension in the Caucasus as "yet another spiral of anti-Chechen propaganda aimed at discrediting the Chechen Republic."

The statement also accused the command of the Russian Interior Ministry troops of intentionally distorting crime statistics in the republic.

Russian authorities encourage the pillaging of trains passing through the republic by Russians who identify themselves as Chechens, and bring in drugs and weapons into the republic. They have also allocated 30 billion roubles to destabilise the situation in the Chechen Republic, the statement said.

The fact that these actions followed Russian-Chechen talks shows that "there are influential forces in the Russian power structures which want to thwart the just-resumed negotiation process," the statement said.

The press service said Dudayev has repeatedly stressed his desire to conduct equal talks with Russia, but the latest events force residents of the Chechen Republic to question the sincerity of Russian leaders' intentions.

Dudayev Demands Coordination of Troop Redeployments

OW0302194893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechnya's President Dzhokhar Dudayev demanded to coordinate any redeployments of Russian forces through the republic's territory at the intergovernmental level. "Otherwise we shall use not only diplomatic but military methods as well," he declared on Wednesday [3 February] at a conference with the leaders of Chechnya military and law enforcement structures.

As Interfax has learned, the conference also discussed issues on confrontation to "anti-Chechen propaganda campaign" waged by Russia mass media, including a statement voiced by Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of interior forces of Russian Interior Ministry, about a complex criminal-related situation in Chechnya and a message about resolution of Moscow authorities "to put an end to Chechen mafia" before February 28.

After the conference Dzhokhar Dudayev left for Gudermes region where the Chechen armed forces are conducting a map exercise encoded "Eastern shield." Personnel, property, and military equipment of a Russian frontier detachment being withdrawn from Azerbaijan to North Ossetia are expected to move precisely in this direction.

Dudayev on Lithuania Visit, Relations with Russia

PM0302161593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Dzhokhar Dudayev Comments on Visit to Lithuania"]

[Text] Vilnius—Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev, whose arrival in Lithuania caused a great deal of fuss because of a lack of coordination in the organization of the trip, addressed a press conference for a small group of journalists in the conference hall of the Lietuva Hotel on Saturday [30 January].

The beginning of the visit was intriguing both for the Chechnya president and for the Lithuanian leadership. D. Dudayev and his entourage had to wait for about 90 minutes at Vilnius airport while the upper echelons of power in the republic were settling the question of the reception of the Chechen delegation. As it turns out, neither Algirdas Brazauskas, Acting Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, nor the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense had been fully informed about the visit. It was known only to a group of Seimas deputies headed by right-wing oposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis: The group had sent a telegram of invitation to Groznyy a few days earlier. Two days later the decision was reviewed and attempts were made to withdraw the invitation but it was already too late—D. Dudayev had flown by presidential plane to Vilnius.

In short, the situation was highly ambiguous although D. Dudayev was not put out by the circumstances of the meeting. At the press conference he stressed that he is not a "stickler for protocol, and summit meetings complete with brass bands are a load of nonsense." The president rejected rumors that he has brought weapons into Lithuania.

According to Dudayev, the aim of the visit to Lithuania was primarily to try to establish bilateral economic ties in the belief that "for Lithuania Chechnya is the gateway to the east and the south while for Chechnya Lithuania is the gateway to the west." In reply to an IZVESTIYA question on whether he is hoping for diplomatic recognition of the Chechen Republic from Lithuania, D. Dudayev stated that "all these acts of recognition are mere conventions" because they do not yield specific results. Only economic cooperation can give meaning to the act of diplomatic recognition, the president stressed.

Dzhokhar Dudayev paid special attention to mutual relations with Russia. At the beginning of the press conference he quite optimistically assessed the first steps in the negotiating process and expressed confidence that "we are moving toward common consensus and renouncing threats and extreme methods," but then he became more categorical. In particular, he asserted that the Russian leadership is continuing its policy of harsh pressure and threats: For example, it is unilaterally denying Chechnya a supply of rubles. In a brief interview for IZVESTIYA D. Dudayev called for the further development of the negotiation process and the repudiation of psychological pressure but

Russia, the president claimed, is not compromising and is trying to use the Lithuanian version of strong-arm pressure. "They want to break us," he declared. Assessing certain Russian politicians and his own compatriots, he stressed: "People like Khasbulatov and Umalatova leave a bitter taste in the mouth..." Later, on Lithuanian Television, P. Gylys, head of Lithuania's foreign ministry, hastened to state that Lithuania takes a neutral stand on the Chechen Republic's relations with the Russian Federation.

Russian, North Ossetian Leaders Discuss Situation

LD0302171193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1640 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 3 TASS—Russian peacekeeping forces should stay in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict until the situation fully normalises there, Alexander Khodov, North Ossetian security council secretary, said on Wednesday [3 February].

Khodov said Russian peacekeepers are the only guarantor of peace in the region.

The success of the search of ways for stabilising the situation in the Prigorod district in North Ossetia will depend on a clear-cut and objective political and legal assessment of the tragic events that have led to an armed conflict between North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Khodov said.

He believes the rapprochement between North Ossetia and Ingushetia and the desire to solve all disputes by peaceful means will largely depend on whether the people of the two republics realise that complex territorial and inter-ethnic problems cannot be solved by force.

Khodov stressed that the disbandment of illegal armed groups in the conflict zone, confiscation of weapons and measures to return refugees are top-priority tasks facing the temporary administration of the region.

He said a joint session of the administration and the North Ossetian security council held on Wednesday discussed a mechanism for reorganising the republican guard and guerrilla troops into two police regiments.

Meanwhile, Russian Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met with North Ossetian Parliament Speaker Akhsarbek Galazov and Premier Sergei Khetagurov in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss the implementation of measures to stabilise the social and political situation in the north Caucasian regions of Russia.

The meeting was also attended by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Parliament Council of Nationalities.

Anti-Russian Forces Said Behind Talks Stalemate

PM0402094993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Sergey Karkhanin report: "Why Are Kislovodsk Talks Proving So Difficult?"]

[Text] These talks between representatives of North Ossetia and Ingushetia are intended to help in the quest for a compromise between the warring sides. But the dialogue is proving difficult. All but the main reason for which must be the efforts to torpedo the Russian authorities' adopted decisions in respect of the conflict.

One such decision by the Russian Supreme Soviet concerns the need to disarm illegal armed formations. It would seem that there is no cause to doubt the expediency of such measures. But at the very time the talks were going on in Kislovodsk, North Ossetian Internal Affairs Minister G. Kantemirov stated openly that the republic's arsenals have been supplemented by 36 APC's, 94 machine guns, and "Shilka" missile launchers, and that two Internal Affairs Ministry regiments based on divisions of the national guard and militia will be set up. "We are armed and ready to act," the belligerent minister stressed.

Another scandalous incident concerns the sensitive problem of hostages. Judging by official documents from the North Ossetian Prosecutor's Office, there are no hostages in the republic detention centers. But there are statements from prisoners at the state security detention center in Vladikavkaz—U. Aushev and M. Barkinkhoyev—requesting that their vouchers be entrusted to their next of kin. Both are listed as missing.

A few days ago, North Ossetian parliament head A. Galazov stressed yet again that "there can be no talk of the return of refugees to their birthplaces until the extremists have been found and called to account." Meanwhile, 64,000 people are being forced to endure cold and hunger because of the speaker's tough stance, which also does nothing to promote the success of the talks. Add to this the fact that the Vladikavkaz newspapers, in violation of the Russian presidential edict, continue to sow dissension and fuel hatred between the two peoples, and it starts to become clear that peace on the shores of the Terek is still a long way off.

"In the newspaper SEVERNAYA OSETIYA 13 January, under the headline 'Tragedy in Karabulak,' there was an account of the savage murder of a Cossack family—the Khalin family," I. Kostoyev, the Russian president's representative in Ingushetia, told ROSSIYSKIYE VETSI's correspondent. "We immediately verified the events recounted, and, to put it mildly, it emerged that they do not correspond to reality. The Khalin family is alive and well, and nobody has sought to oppress them. Who gains from trying to incite Ingush and Ossetian citizens to quarrel with our Russian brothers?"

Thus, forces which derive some advantage from intestine strife continue to operate behind the scenes of the talks in

Kislovodsk. And it is no coincidence that Russian Government Vice Premier S. Shakhray, speaking a few days ago in parliament, noted that armed conflict may resume in Prigorodnyy Rayon.

North Ossetian, Moscow Leaders Reach Agreement

OW0402122993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the North Ossetian Parliament Ahsarbek Galazov has told IF [INTERFAX] that the leadership of Russia accepted the proposal of his side concerning a comprehensive approach to the refugee problem in the zone of the state of emergency.

This was one of the matters discussed on Wednesday [3 February] in Moscow by the leadership of North Ossetia with the Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Chairman of the House of Nationalities Ramazan Abdulatipov.

According to the North Ossetian leader, there are Ossetian refugees from Georgia and South Ossetia, Russian refugees from Ingushetia and the Chechen Republic as well as Meskhetian Turks deported from Georgia in his republic. He also said that understanding was reached on the disarmament of illegal armed groups. The Ossetian side stressed that disarmament efforts should be simultaneous in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Ingush, Ossetians Sign Agreement on Freeing Hostages

OW0402123393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An agreement on the freeing of hostages and the search for missing persons was signed at the second round of Ingush-Ossetian negotiations in Kislovodsk on Wednesday [3 February].

The issue was the first point of a protocol on intent which was signed by delegations from North Ossetia and Ingushetia in Kislovodsk on 24 January with the help of intermediaries from Daghestan and Stavropol.

The agreement envisions the preparation by both sides of lists of missing, dead, and buried persons on or before 15 February, as well as the strengthening of search teams with equal representation from both sides and guarantees that they will be allowed to carry out their work without interference in both republics. It is thought that the search teams will include no more than three representatives from each side and that the search will be carried out the same way in the neighboring republics.

Also stipulated by the agreement is the establishment of an information service on the basis of the existing press and information department of the provisional administration; the purpose of the center will be to undertake activity to inform the population of the efforts being made.

The sides considered it advisable to offer cash awards to people "providing reliable information on where people are being held or bodies have been buried." In accordance with the agreement, the sides may enlist the help of social and religious organizations in order to help resolve problems of a humanitarian nature.

The delegations from Stavropol and Daghestan, who served as mediators at the negotiations, made an appeal to the people and state organs of Ossetia and Ingushetia, as well as those of neighboring countries, to cooperate in the search.

Experts from both sides will continue their work in Kislovodsk on Thursday, when they will specify a date for their next meeting, tentatively set for mid-February.

Vice Premier Meets Tula Arms Manufacturers

PM0302181593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Arnold Pushkar report: "Nostalgia for People's Commissariat for Armaments Prevailed at Meeting Between Tula Enterprise Directors and Vice Premier"]

[Text] Tula—Money, money, money—this moan hung in the air, as it were, in the packed hall where Tula directors met with Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha and his large retinue. They spoke heatedly about indexation of circulating capital and responsibility for the slowing down of banking operations.

As in Brezhnev's time, the patriarch of the Tula defense industry—V. Usov, now president of the "Tulmashzavod" joint-stock company—spoke sharply. "I have been to the United States and heard wise words there: 'What is good for General Motors is good for America.' But our government endeavors to make things bad for the plant. It has levied excessive taxes and export duties on arms sales."

Usov, like the other defense enterprise directors, wants to conclude contracts himself and to obtain currency funds on the plant's account.

Yu. Agafonov, director of a defense scientific research institute, is opposed to what he sees as the excessive rights of property committees. He favors having the Defense Industry Committee entirely and fully in control and in charge of defense plants, as in the old days.

Both the speeches and the comments expressed great concern at the [status of the] trade in arms, the proceeds from selling which can be used to carry out conversion and to maintain their collectives. But no one spoke about conversion itself, although just one plant out of many has been converted. Neither was the body of directors concerned at the fact that food prices in Tula Oblast are far higher than in neighboring Ryazan, Kaluga, and Orel Oblasts. This is precisely because too many people here make weapons (60 percent of those employed in industry).

and too few till the land and look after livestock (4 percent of the entire population). Maybe the Arab Emirates, on which our hopes are now pinned, will give us for our guns sacks of dollars, which we will use to buy up butter, stockings, and shorts. But will we really leave this difficult thing—conversion—to our children and grandchildren?

G. Khizha said that the economic efficiency of what we create must be regarded as of paramount importance in the reform. With a view to curbing inflation, regional and sectoral associations of industrialists must themselves elaborate the pricing policy and conclude tariff agreements with trade unions and the government, so that the rules of the game are observed.

The vice premier also declared, to the rumbling approval of the directors, that the State Committee for the Administration of State Property has turned into a supermonster where nonprofessionals have been given the rights to manage state property and to appoint leaders. The present privatization is the same thing as the collectivization of the twenties and thirties.

For seven years we have been talking of reform and conversion, meeting cavalcades of high-ranking people, and putting on a show for them. But in downtown Tula, as in a besieged fortress, everyone is shooting guns on a test ground, as though reminding newborn babies in the maternity homes: Know, baby, that your grandfather and father were soldiers, and that you too will be a soldier....

Moscow Poll on Social, Economic Conditions

PM0402120993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Nugzar Betaneli, director of Institute of the Sociology of Parliamentarianism: "Fight Against Mafia: 60 Percent of Muscovites Do Not Believe It Has Succeeded"]

[Text] The independent Institute of the Sociology of Parliamentarianism carried out its routine weekly poll of 1,000 Muscovites at the request of the Television News Agency (ITA) 28 January. Here is what a comparative analysis has shown.

The everyday question "How are things?" is almost becoming tactless these days. Today it is only a minority of 22 percent of Muscovites who are to some degree or another satisfied with their present lives; 72 percent are dissatisfied, and 6 percent found it difficult to give an answer. I would remind you that a similar psychological crisis was also observed at the time of the first shock at the market economy last year: In January 1992 13 percent were satisfied with their lives and in March 20 percent were satisfied. One reason is obvious—inflation, prices, and the impossibility of adapting immediately. For example, the proportion of Muscovites considering that the price liberalization was "unbearable" increased from 36 percent in December to 41 on 28 January; 45 percent stoically state that "things are difficult but bearable," and, as before, 9 percent find that the situation is "not as terrible as it appeared" or even that "it suits them." Nevertheless, there are more and more poor people: The proportion of Muscovites who in their own view are living "below the poverty line" grew from 14 percent in September, to 16 percent in October, and 18 percent on 28 January. Another 30 percent "live poorly"; 49 percent of those polled consider they live reasonably, and 1 percent that they live "affluently."

The process of impoverishment to which an ever-increasing number of people are falling victim makes you stop and think: "In whose name and for the good of which social groups are the current Russian authorities acting?" A relative majority of 38 percent have difficulty in answering this question, but in the estimation of 34 percent, the authorities are acting "on behalf of themselves, of those who are in power;" 6 percent consider they are acting "in the name of the rich, the entrepreneurs," 5 percent "in the name of the mafia," 5 percent "on behalf of nobody," and only 9 percent "in the name of the people, of everybody."

In recent times, the proportion of people considering the government's present economic policy to be in some degree or another correct has noticeably decreased: 30 percent in April, 23 percent in November, and 14 percent in January 1993. Almost half—48 percent—believe this policy to be incorrect, and 38 percent find it hard to say. At the same time only 6 percent of Muscovites think that the government is in control of the economic situation in Russia; 38 percent consider that the government is not sufficiently in control of it and that it is becoming unmanageable, and 41 percent that the situation in Russia has already become unmanageable.

Supporters of the economic reforms have a clear majority in society. In all 68 percent of Muscovites are in favor of a market economy, but at the same time the actual ways of developing it provoke discussion. Only 20 percent consider that we should go further along the present path, and in the opinion of 48 percent the market economy should be developed but in a different way. "Opponents" of the market economy remain a clear minority: 1 percent demand that we stick at what we have already achieved, and 9 percent that we "wind it up" completely.

Can the Russian Government expect the people to be patient when carrying out the economic reforms? Some 43 percent of Muscovites predict it "can" (47 percent in December), 38 percent consider that it "cannot" (30 percent in December), and 19 percent found it difficult to say. It is clear that the people's psychological adaptation to the economic difficulties and their patience in social matters depend on their trust in their leaders.

The economic failures in recent times have begun to undermine the first Russian president's "image." Thus the proportion of those who believe that B. Yeltsin's economic policy will be successful fell from 37 percent in December to 26 percent on 28 January; one in two Muscovites (59 percent) does not believe in it, and 15 percent find it hard to say. Many people (44 percent in December, and 61 percent in January) do not believe at all that B. Yeltsin will have success and extricate Russia from the crisis before the elections for a new president in 1996. Only 25 percent of those polled believe in this, and 14 percent find it hard to

say. The president's rating has also noticeably fallen: The total proportion of Muscovite voters who regard B. Yeltsin's activities positively or with positive interest has fallen from 46 percent in December to 35 percent in January, and the proportion of those who regard it "negatively" or "guardedly" has risen from 40 percent in December to 42 percent in January.

The president recently announced the beginning of a bitter struggle against the mafia, corruption, and crime in the country. As the poll showed, only 21 percent of Muscovites believe that this struggle will be a success; the majority—60 percent—do not believe in it, 2 percent of those polled are not concerned by this problem at all, and 17 percent found it hard to say.

International Affairs

Government To Cooperate With Danube-Serbian Sanctions

LD0302154793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Ukraine has agreed to host, in its Danube ports, international missions monitoring the implementation of UN sanctions against Serbia. In a letter to the Security Council, Ukraine categorically rejects its involvement in the illegal export of oil to Serbia. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry maintains that oil products were not loaded up on the Yugoslav barge in its ports, but direct from tankers in the Danube, by Russian, Bulgarian, Greek, Cypriot, and Turkish companies. Besides, the fuel was destined for other countries, not Serbia.

Official on Alleged Oil Shipments

PM0402111993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by correspondent O. Musafirova: "Who Is Pouring Oil on Balkan Fire?"]

[Text] Kiev—The news of the week is that Ukraine is allegedly supplying oil to warring Serbia disregarding the embargo and the strict UN sanctions against that country. It is true that so far no one has lodged official protests over this. Several world news agencies are acting as accusers: Surely Ukraine, which itself complains of an acute lack of energy carriers, has not risked openly, under its state flag, or secretly, through intermediaries, doing Serbia more than a kindness by pouring its own drop of fuel onto the Balkan conflagration?

I asked Vladimir Yelchenko, who is in charge of the sector for political questions of the United Nations and Security Council at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, to comment on the situation for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Actually, even before our conversation we knew of the Foreign Ministry's 29 January statement denying all hints and half-hints regarding the unsteady Ukrainian position regarding the observance of the embargo regime. End regarding the thrust of the issue it was made clear that "Throughout the period from November 1992 through January 1993 five tugs under the FRY flag with convoys including a total of over 30 barges carrying petroleum products were recorded as having sailed down the section of the river Danube on Ukrainian territory. A check showed that the barges were loaded with petroleum products from tankers in the waters of the Danube. It has been reliably established that these petroleum products were delivered by Russian, Bulgarian, Greek, Cypriot, and Turkish companies with a view to their subsequent dispatch to Austria, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, and the former CSFR." The document then subtly hinted: "Thus, for instance, the Russian 'Salavatneftegazsintez' company has recently been shipping about 3,000 tonnes of diesel fuel for Bosnia and Hercegovina, which is confirmed by the relevant documents." Of course, there can be no documents authorizing the shipping of oil to Serbia.

"Events developed as follows," V.YU. Yelchenko said. "The convoys did indeed take on oil in Reni from the terminal of the so-called 'mother barge.' But not last week, as some mass media are trying to depict the matter. The barges stood, loaded, for about two and one half months at the roadstead in Galati. On approximately 26 January the captain of the tug Pikhach radioed to the Romanian side, which had not allowed the oil convoy to proceed any further from Galati, to say that he was returning to Ukraine. And the distance between the ports of Galati and Reni is a 10-minute journey. On the way the Pikhach turned sharply, altered course, and left for Serbia via Bulgaria. They could not stop it, and indeed did not try very hard. The captain threatened to discharge the oil straight into the Danube... Ukraine was accused of every sin although of course there was no Ukrainian flag on the tug and no Ukrainian oil in the holds.

"The procedure for monitoring UN sanctions on the Danube is extremely imperfect," V.Yu. Yelchenko believes. "And the embargo is having a painful effect not only on Serbia but also in particular on the Ukrainian Danube steamship company, which because of the enforced idling of its barges, has lost about $1 million plus fines because of oil consumers who have not received deliveries, plus contracts that may be dissolved... And the barrage network still has large holes through which several towboats have obviously slipped. Of course, the best option would be a UN convoy: A small border cutter escorting the convoys through Yugoslavia to ensure that no one 'turns to the left.' But it seems that is very expensive and unfeasible."

And the latest news from a well informed source. On 29 January there was a telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher and Ukrainian Foreign Minister A. Zlenko. In particular they discussed the incident related above. The source confirms that Ukraine has the duty of apprehending all Serbian vessels entering its ports, to include the possible use of force, in order to "fulfill the UN decision on the Danube."

A State Department spokesman has stated that three officers from the U.S. customs service are now in Ukraine to observe the activity of the port services in Reni. "That is the prelude to the mission which is being instituted to maintain sanctions in the ports of Reni and Izmail," the resume stated.

Consultations With Romania

LD0402111393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa February 4 TASS—Enacting U.N. economic sanctions against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) are centrestage to the participants in the Ukrainian-Romanian consultations which opened here today.

The sides' delegations at the level of experts include representatives of foreign policy establishments, transport

ministries, border and customs services of the two neighbouring states which have an outlet to the Danube River.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS before the beginning of the consultations, Boris Gudyma, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Department for International Organisations, emphasised that the key task of the meeting is to discuss with the Romanian side the latest developments associated with problems of complying with the international community's economic embargo against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia on the section of the Danube River which runs through Romania and Ukraine.

Cabinet Allocates $1.4 Million to Peacekeeping Battalion

LD0402042693 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers has allocated $1.4 million to the Ministry of Defense to ensure the operation of the battalion sent to maintain peace in conflict zones on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, since the participation of the battalion of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the UN peacekeeping forces is continuing.

The costs incurred by Ukraine in connection with ensuring the operation of the battalion in the current year are subject to compensation by the United Nations.

Deputy Minister Says Arms Disposal Not 'Priority'

LD0302201793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The current economic situation prevents Ukraine from regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons as a priority task—while laying aside other no less important tasks—in the opinion of Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Byzhan. If the world is interested in this process occurring more rapidly, other sources of financing must become available, he said.

Nuclear Station Materials May Be Under IAEA Control

LD0202235293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1622 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By Vladimir Shevchenko, UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Netishin, Khmelnitskiy Oblast, 1 Feb—The information center of the Khmelnitskiy atomic electric power station has reported that an inspection group of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has visited the station. It was studying the possibilities of placing the nuclear materials utilized at the atomic electric power station under the guarantee of this international organization.

During their work, the inspectors acquainted themselves with the construction of the reactor department of the second power unit and visited the fresh fuel unit. All of the necessary documents were placed at their disposal. The IAEA specialists must arrive at the next meeting, which is planned in several months time, with definitive suggestions about installing television observation cameras, ensuring a reliable power supply for them, and lighting the places under control and the places where IAEA seals will be placed.

Sevastopol Can Survive Without Black Sea Fleet

OW0302173793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] CINC [commander in chief] Black Sea Fleet, Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, CINC Ukrainian Navy Boris Kozhyn, chairman of Sevastopol city council Viktor Semenov and representative of the Ukrainian president in Sevastopol Ivan Yermakov met in Sevastopol on Tuesday [2 February] in the framework of preparations for the next meeting of the Russian and the Ukrainian delegations for Black Sea Fleet. The parties were addressing the issues of future development of the Black Sea Fleet, as regards the city problems in general and its relations with local authorities.

In the opinion of the representative of the Ukrainian president in Sevastopol, Mr Yermakov, the Black Sea Fleet should either be withdrawn from Sevastopol city limits or Ukraine and Russia should commit themselves to financing the city and pay the rent for the land occupied by the naval installations. In the absence of the Black Sea Fleet base, he said, Sevastopol would be able to sustain itself on its own.

The parties resolved to set up a special commission for making an inventory of the city land plots occupied by the navy. The participants of the meeting pledged to abide by the provisions of Yalta Agreement on the Black Sea Fleet which was signed by the Ukrainian and Russian presidents on August 3, 1992.

Naval Commander Urges Cooperation

OW0302195393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commander of the Ukrainian Navy Boris Kozhyn says Ukraine and Russia now have a chance of implementing the Yalta and Dagomys agreements following the arrival in Sevastopol of Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Eduard Baltin. In an interview with Interfax, Kozhyn said the two commanders could work together to try to resolve the main task of ensuring border security both of Ukraine and Russia and maintaining peace in Sevastopol and Crimean territory.

Further on Visit by Polish Defense Minister

LD0302172693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 3 TASS—Polish Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz ended his official three-day visit to Kiev on Wednesday [3 February] by signing an agreement on military cooperation between Ukraine and Poland.

During the visit Onyszkiewicz met with Ukrainian parliament speaker, Ivan Plyushch, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and other officials and held talks with Colonel-General Konstyantyn Morozov, Ukrainian defence minister.

The agreement envisages cooperation in the sphere of disarmament, the formation of the armed forces at the time of peace, the exchange of information on military hardware, the establishment of contacts between air defence troops, air force and navy, military communication officers, military topography and geodesy experts, scientific and research institutions. There are plans to invite observers to monitor military tactical exercises, train officers in military colleges and courses and improve their knowledge and skills. Plans have been outlined to develop cooperation in culture, tourism and environmental protection.

A joint news conference was held by the heads of the Ukrainian and Polish Defence Ministries. They assessed highly the results of the talks during which the sides reached complete mutual understanding on all issues.

It was pointed out that the agreement on cooperation in military sphere does not mean the establishment of a military union between Poland and Ukraine and is not aimed against third countries. The agreement was signed in the interests of both countries and is aimed at maintaining stability in Central Europe. It was pointed out that the main result of the visit was the establishment of cooperation on an official basis and transition to practical steps in establishing military contacts.

Ministers Hold News Conference

LD0302182693 Warsaw PAP in English 1615 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Kiev, Feb. 3—Poland would like to join the European Communities but does not intend to turn its back on its eastern neighbors, Polish Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz told a press conference in Kiev on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Onyszkiewicz took part in the signing of an agreement facilitating military cooperation between the Polish and Ukrainian Ministries of Defence. Both Onyszkiewicz and his Ukrainian counterpart Konstyantyn Morozov stressed that the agreement cannot be perceived as a military alliance, but rather facilitates broader military cooperation.

Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy and Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko were present at the signing which took place at the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence. Onyszkiewicz and Morozov both emphasized the strategic importance of Polish-Ukrainian relations.

Onyszkiewicz stressed that Poland is not worried by the number of Ukranian troops. "We know that Ukraine inherited it from the former Soviet Union. Our lack of anxiety results also from the very good Polish-Ukrainian relations," he said. The Polish minister expressed the same confidence when commenting on nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of Ukraine. He added that Poland is "concerned that the number of states with nuclear capability does not increase, and this is why Poland appreciates Ukraine's declaration of neutrality and non-nuclear status." Onyszkiewicz added that friendly Polish-Ukrainian relations further reinforce Poland's confidence.

Commenting on Poland's plans to relocate troops from its western to eastern border, Morozov stated that "we understand that the Polish Armed Forces were deployed in an imbalanced manner, and this must change." He added that Ukrainian troops will be stationed evenly throughout the country. Presently, the vast majority are stationed in Ukraine's western territories.

Onyszkiewicz cited the initiation of contacts between (Polish and Ukrainian) Ministries and army units as the most important accomplishment of his three day visit.

Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD0302233493 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] For Dr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz, minister of national defense of the Republic of Poland, has spent his fourth day of staying in Ukraine.

[Unidentified correspondent] The signature of an agreement on military cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Poland took place today in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

Seeking to implement the provisions of the agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland on good-neighborliness, friendly relations, and cooperation the sides stress that it will have significant importance for cooperation between the defense ministries of the two countries and their armed forces. The agreement will promote the consolidation of trust between Ukraine and Poland and guarantee peace and security in Europe.

In accordance with a military tradition, Janusz Onyszkiewicz and Kostyantyn Morozov exchanged swords, which symbolized complete mutual trust between the armed forces of our states.

Also today Dr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz, minister of national defense of the Republic of Poland, and Colonel-General Kostyantyn Morozov, minister of defense of Ukraine, gave a press conference in the House of Officers in Kiev. Dr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz stressed that the agreement between our military departments will guarantee calm and stability in Europe. Cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in the military field will be long-term.

[Announcer] And this is Boryspil Airport. An official send-off ceremony in honor of Dr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz and his delegation began here at 1600. The heads of the armed forces of our state took part in the ceremony. The Polish Army aircraft took off for Warsaw at 1620.

Kuchma Holds Talks With World Bank Officials

LD0402145093 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1805 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian prime minister has received a delegation from the World Bank, which visited our country on a working visit, and having prolonged it by a few days. [passage omitted]

The leader of the World Bank delegation paid particular attention to the fact that today in Ukraine more than 44 percent of the gross domestic product is directed at the social sphere. Such an indicator does not exist anywhere else in the world. For example, in Great Britain it is 18 percent, in Hungary 25 percent, and in Italy and Poland 27 percent respectively. They therefore direct fewer resources toward the social sphere, but the standard of living of the people is higher.

Bazil Kavalskiy explained this by the fact that in our country the utilization of such allocations has not yet been worked out. [passage omitted] The World Bank representatives were also surprised by the fact that today in Ukraine the percentage of pensioners is too high. It is difficult for the state to support them. What is the way out? They consider it is necessary to raise the qualifying pensionable age as it is done in many states, and attract those pensioners to work who desire to and who can work.

For us it is very important, said the leader of the delegation by way of conclusion, that our proposals on many problems are shared by Ukrainian colleagues. This gives us a base for an optimistic outlook on our cooperation for the future.

First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy and Economic Minister Viktor Pynzenyk took part in the meeting.

Bank To Provide $1.5 Million

OW0302151393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Hyperinflation is the main problem of the Ukrainian economy, Director of the World Bank's Department for Europe and Central Asia Bazil Kovalsky said speaking after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Zhulinsky in Kiev on Tuesday [2 February].

He said social payments would not be effective unless hyperinflation was stopped. Kovalsky referred to bank forecasts of three million jobless in Ukraine in two years' time.

The World Bank and the Ukrainian Government signed a memorandum of intent under which the Japanese-sponsored Policy and Human Resources Development Fund is to allocate $1.5 mln [million] in aid to finance the management of Ukraine's social, employment, education and training programmes.

Kovalsky, who signed the paper on the bank's behalf, spoke of a narrowing of differences between Ukrainian Government plans and bank recommedations with respect to social issues.

For his part, Zhulinsky said his government was relying on the World Bank's help in implementing its social programmes.

Russia To Take Responsibility for Debt After 31 Mar

AU0402112893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Protocol Has Not Been Signed. A Search for Compromise Is Continuing"]

[Text] **Yesterday's news conference, held in the building of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers dealt with the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the repayment of the debt and division of the assets of the former USSR.**

Speaking before journalists, first vice premier Ihor Yukhnovskyy, head of the Ukrainian delegation, said that the negotiations were held following the statement by the leadership of the Paris Creditors Club, who are not satisfied by the decision of both states on repaying their shares in the debt.

The first vice premier said that none of the proposed alternatives satisfied the two sides. As a result, the protocol was not signed. However, as I. Yukhnovskyy stated, many important questions could be coordinated, in particular, on repaying their shares of the debt, until 31 March, separately by Russia and Ukraine. Over this period, representatives of Russia must transfer to Ukraine a corresponding part of the assets. When this is positively resolved, Russia will assume responsibility for the entire sum of the debt, and Ukraine will settle accounts directly with Russia.

Kravchuk Congratulates Vaclav Havel

LD0302203993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] (Roman Lubkivskyy), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Czech Republic, has handed over a congratulatory greeting from President Leonid Kravchuk to Vaclav Havel, the first president of this state. He carried out this honorable mission in the Hall of Mirrors in Prague Castle, where the inauguration ceremony on the occasion of Vaclav Havel assuming the highest state position took place.

National Affairs

Commodity Exchange Offers Military Hardware for Sale

OW0402113993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Big quantities of weapons have been offered for sale at the Ukrainian-Siberian Commodity Exchange. The offer of a Ukrainian firm that preferred to remain unnamed includes among other things 27 MIG-27K heavy bombers made in 1988 through 1990 for $16 million apiece, 14 YaK-22 PP bombers made in 1985-1988 for $13 million, 5 Mi-6 helicopters for $2.1 [not further specified] and 3 Mi-8 helicopters for $2 million, 100 Strela-10-M missiles for $30,000, 50 Shilka self-propelled air defence installations for $140,000, 12 launching pads for tactical missiles OTR-300 for $350,000.

The firm is also selling two KILO diesel submarines for $130,000 and $150,000, 46 self-propelled 203 mm guns for $1.35 million, 50 useu T-62 tanks for $220,000, 30 used T-64P tanks for $200,000 and three Manevr automated combat control systems for $3.5 million.

The firm also offers contracts for the production of Sukhoi-25K and Sukhoi-25B heavy bombers for $11 million and $11.9 million, Sukhoi-27CK and Sukhoi-27UB interceptor-fighters for $31 million, Ilyushin-76TD planes for $32 million, Mi-24 fire support helicopters for $7 million, C-300B mobile rocket air defence systems (comparable to Patriot) for $650,00 and Tunguska rocket air defence systems for $65,000.

The weapons cannot be sold to CIS countries. The buyer should produce a licence for trade in arms, an import permit from the country of delivery and a written guarantee from a first category bank. The weapons are located in Russia.

At a Kiev news conference IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent asked Prime-Minister Leonid Kuchma about the lawfulness of such deals. He said arms trade will be controlled by the government so that it would not "get into the wrong hands".

He said an agreement was reached with Russia on joint arms sales of Ukrainian and Russian make but not through exchanges. "It is hard to believe in the sale of such a quantity of weapons and my assistants will be instructed to investigate the case", the prime-minister said.

Decree Discharges Returning Border Guards

AU0302142693 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Jan 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Discharging From the Ranks of Ukraine's Border Troops Those Servicemen—Citizens of Ukraine—Who Have Returned to Ukraine After Completing Their Military Service on the Territory of Georgia and Tajikistan" issued in Kiev on 28 January]

[Text] In accordance with Ukraine's law "On General Military Duty and Military Service," I decree as follows:

To discharge from the ranks of Ukraine's Border Troops those servicemen who had been conscripted for active military service in spring 1991 and who returned to Ukraine in accordance with Ukraine's Presidential Edict "On the Return to Ukraine of Servicemen—Citizens of Ukraine—From Military Units Stationed on the Territory of Georgia and Tajikistan for Completing Service in Ukraine" issued on 1 December 1992.

The State Committee for Questions of the Defense of Ukraine's State Border shall discharge these servicemen in January and February 1993.

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine

[Dated] Kiev, 28 January 1993

Kuchma Cabinet To Overcome Enthusiasm for Macroeconomics

OW0302181593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, having recently returned from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday took part in a session of parliament which was discussing the government's report on the bases of national economic policy.

The fundamental principles of the document had been put forth the day before in a speech by Vice-Premier and Economic Minister Viktor Pynzenyk. He said that during the formulation of the government report, he had come to the following conclusions:

1. Ukraine does not need to have a balanced budget under conditions in which the stoppage of one monopoly enterprise results in stoppages at dozens of other enterprises. It is essential to overcome enthusiasm for macroeconomic approaches at the expense of microeconomic methods.

2. The state sector will remain the foundation of the economy for a long time. It is necessary to revive effective control over state property. The ministry will name directors and control the financial activities of enterprises without interfering in operative matters of management.

3. It is essential to have government control over revenues. The growth of revenues must correspond with an increase in productive output.

4. Full price liberalization is effective only in a competitive environment, and therefore an array of measures against monopolism and limitations on the profits of monopoly enterprises are necessary.

5. Executive discipline and personal responsibility on the part of leaders are necessary for the fulfillment of laws and decrees.

In financial policy, the government intends to pay off the deficit through bank credits and the issuing of securities. Pynzenyk reported that the interest rates of the National Bank of Ukraine will be set at a rate higher than that of

inflation. The government will pursue the internal convertibility of the karbovanets, after which it intends to issue a prohibition against the circulation of foreign currencies in Ukraine.

In subsequent issues, Presidential Bulletin will provide information, from the point of view of presidential circles, on the progress of the parliamentary debate over the government's plan and the possibility of the cabinet's intended measures being carried out.

Kuchma Faces 'Pointed Questions' on Donbass Visit

PM0302144593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Correspondent Boris Glotov report under the general headline "Leaders on Tour": "Premier Fears Donbass"]

[Text] Donetsk city—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has toured Donetsk Oblast. During the two days he visited several metallurgical plants, a mine, and a refrigerator production association, and he met with captains of industry and journalists.

"I was apprehensive about going to the Donbass," the premier admitted.

What exactly was he afraid of? Lately, especially immediately before the meeting of states' leaders in Minsk, there has been one letter after another from Donetsk Oblast to the Ukrainian president, Supreme Soviet, and government demanding the signature of the CIS Charter and the regulation of relations with Russia and other Commonwealth countries.

So delegations of representatives of Donetsk Oblast's base sectors visiting Kiev demanded that the Ukrainian leadership create normal conditions for enterprises to work in. If this does not happen, they stated, the Donbass could embark on extreme measures.

The weighty words worked: The prime minister came to hear the Donbass workers' complaints from the horse's mouth. There were many of them. People are dissatisfied with prices (they are virtually the highest in Ukraine), catastrophic impoverishment, and the principles for formulating and allocating the budget.

There were many pointed questions during the meeting between leaders of the oblast's enterprises and the prime minister. But those present were worried most of all about relations with Russia. Citing IZVESTIYA for 27 January this year, the premier said that it is no use counting on the CIS—it will bring little benefit because Russia is playing first fiddle in it.

But I am an optimist, Kuchma stated, and think that common sense in relations between our countries will still prevail. True, he did not say when this would occur. In one year, in 10 years?.. But he did ask the Donetsk inhabitants for support.

What exactly must they support the premier and his government in? After all, those present at the meeting heard no mention at all of how and in what time span the Ukrainian Government intends to stabilize the country's devastated economy.

Prime Minister Kuchma Begins Three-Day Visit to Crimea

OW0402121393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [4 February] the Ukrainian Prime-Minister Leonid Kuchma is beginning a three day tour of the Crimea where he is to visit Sevastopol, Kerch and Simferopol and meet the speaker of the Crimean Parliament Nikolay Bagrov and the command of the joint Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet. At the end he will meet journalists in Simferopol.

Group Warns About Resurgence of Communist Power

LD0302160093 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1728 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The anticommunist and anti-imperialist Front of Ukraine were at the center of a news conference which Vyacheslav Chornovil, Ivan Drach, Mykhaylo Horyn, Serhiy Holovatyy, Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, Nykolay Porovskyy, and Volodymyr Mulyava held on 1 February for Ukrainian and foreign journalists.

Ivan Drach, who has been instructed to coordinate the activities of the front, read out a statement from the new association. It was signed by leaders from 24 political parties and organizations. The statement notes that Ukraine finds itself faced by the threat of the restoration of the communist regime. In the opinion of the initiators of the front's creation, Communists, speculating on temporary difficulties, are openly fighting for the restoration of the empire. Therefore, the front will direct its activity toward the building of a Ukrainian state, the creation of an effective structure of power, and the speeding up of economic reform.

Leaders of parties, associations, and movements, noted Ivan Drach, believe that an internal struggle is inappropriate at this time and are ending any mutual confrontation. The front will hold a forum on 21 February to discuss tactics.

Official Criticizes Lack of Proper Patent Legislation

AU0402142393 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 30 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with V. Petrov, chairman of Ukraine's Patent Department, by Hennadiy Androshchuk; place and date not given: "Who Needs Secrets?"]

[Text] [Androshchuk] Despite the headlong disintegration of the Soviet Union, the U.S. Federal Government is still holding under ban almost 6,000 inventions that, as it believes, could threaten America's national security. These orders on secrecy, introduced by the country's Patent Office on the basis of the United States legislation, hamper the issuing of patents and, in many cases, inventors are forbidden to sell or license their technology to anyone but the U.S. Government irrespective of the fact whether that technology was created with the help of private or government funds.

The greatest quantity of restriction orders today do not apply to Military secrets (such as blueprints for the creation of nuclear weapons), but to "dual-purpose" technology that may be used for both commercial and military purposes. These include, in particular, some types of computer technology, new ceramic materials, laser systems, production technologies on semiconductors, and automated control systems. New data obtained by the American Scientists Federation from the Patent Office on the basis of the Law on the Freedom of Information indicate that the quantity of new secrecy orders is steadily growing. For example, while there were 290 of them in 1979, in 1991 the figure amounted to 774. This trend has become particularly conspicuous over the last three years. The total number of such orders has grown over the decade from 3,600 (in 1979) to 5893 (1991). This situation has surprised and, at the same time, alarmed some patent experts.

These data have been taken from THE NEW YORK TIMES. What is the situation regarding classified inventions in our country? We asked V. Petrov, chairman of Ukraine's State Patent Department, to answer this question.

[Petrenko] Here are several figures. In the former USSR, between 13,000 and 15,000 claims on classified inventions were recorded annually. Almost one-third of them came from Ukraine, more specifically between 4,000 and 5,000 claims or between 2,000 and 2,500 inventions. Who will become the owner of these patents? The old system has disintegrated, and the new one has not begun to function yet. Consequently, to this day questions regulating legal relations in the sphere of intellectual property, where the country's security is involved, have not been resolved. There are no laws on state or commercial secrets. There is no mechanism for classifying or declassifying scientific research, dissertations, inventions, or commercial samples, or for licensing the "know-how." Upon whom does this depend? First and foremost, upon the Ministry of Defense, Security Service, and Ministry of the Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion.

The absence of the aforementioned normative basis does not make it possible for Ukraine's State Patent Department to introduce the system of reception and consideration of claims that deal with genuinely classified inventions. It must be pointed out that the latter are not so plentiful. Today, unfortunately, many inventors, having a poor idea of the essence of patent protection, demand that their claims be "sealed" to prevent anybody from finding out about their "secrets" or in connection with patenting them abroad. It must be stressed that if the invention has been classified as "secret" in accordance with the corresponding legislation, then its publication will be prohibited. In the rest of the cases, a guarantee of, for example, commercial secrets requires other measures that may not be associated with patenting. This is well known to experienced patent specialists. The implementation of Ukraine's intentions to become integrated into the economy of economically and legally advanced states will create conditions for foreign, in addition to national, capital in various forms of ownership to function inside the country. Today, thousands of joint enterprises and about 100 foreign firm missions function in Ukraine. The absence of corresponding laws and normative acts may lead to a situation in which many scientific and technological achievements, including those that are of great importance for the country's defense, will become subject to control by foreign states. Delays in this matter may cause great difficulties and unjustified expenditures in the creation and improvement of military technology and weapons, impair our troops' combat readiness, and be detrimental to our country's defense capability.

Belarus

Shushkevich Says CIS Members Must Be 'Equal Partners'

LD0302212993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1558 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 3 Feb—"We are of no use to anybody if we come to the European Community with outstretched hands. The CIS republics today can only be accepted as equal partners who are capable of assisting in development," said Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich on his return from the World Economic Forum in Davos. About 30 meetings with politicians and economists from all over the world took place during the forum. There were talks with the heads of many states and governments and with the leaders of international organizations. For example, Belarus' prospects for cooperation with the world community were discussed at meetings with leaders of the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. As Stanislav Shushkevich emphasized, the Belarusian delegation was given a great deal of help by employees of the Russian Embassy in Switzerland.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Ratifying CIS Charter

OW0402023593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the next session, the Belarusian parliament is expected to discuss the ratification of the CIS Charter, whose basic provisions were approved in Minsk by the heads of the 7 CIS states.

Nikolay Skorynin, a coordinator of the faction Belarus and the prime minister's chief adviser, told INTERFAX [IF] in an exclusive interview, that the text of the Charter, coordinated by experts and confirmed by the heads of state, should not be amended. The parliament will only have to vote for or against this inter-state document, he said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The faction Belarus is the biggest parliamentary faction which has about 120 members, most of them leaders of local councils, collective and state farms, industrial enterprises and law-enforcement bodies. Local observers believe that this faction actually determines the work of the parliament.

Skorynin noted, however, that the CIS Charter may be ratified with certain reservations, including the one which does not recognize the provision dealing with the participation of Belarus in the treaty on collective security. (This treaty was signed by Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Tashkent in May 1992 - INTERFAX). "The Belarusian parliament has adopted a declaration which documents that state's goal of becoming a neutral state uninvolved in any military unions or alliances," said Skorynin.

However, in principle, during the transitional period, Belarus may join the treaty on collective security because the Declaration documents the republic's aspiration for neutrality, but does not say that it has been declared already, he said. He also added that his republic's firm position and wish to attain the set target points to the fact that it pursues a truly independent political course. This, he said, has won Belarus well-deserved international respect and meets its national interests." [quotation marks as received]

Skorynin believes that before the end of the week the parliament will shape its attitude to the Statement by the 7th congress of people's deputies on the possibility of forming a confederation or some other state entity on the basis of the CIS. He also thinks that "partly, the Belarusian parliament's position on the issue was expressed long before the Russian congress raised this problem".

IF Note: On August 25, 1991, the Belarusian parliament granted the Declaration on State Independence the status of a constitutional law. Part 2 of this law's Article 11 reads: "Belarus urges to start drafting a treaty on the union of sovereign socialist states".

In Skorynin's opinion, "partly, Belarus has implemented this provision by taking part in the formation of the CIS". "Although some of the wordings have become obsolete, the general idea of rapprochement remains valid, particularly in the economic sphere," he said.

Parliament Lifts Ban on Communist Party

LD0402111093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] At an evening parliamentary sitting, the deputies considered acknowledging the resolution of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet on temporarily suspending the activities of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Belarus [CPB] on the territory of Belarus as being ineffective. The deputies decided to end the effect of that document, but introduced a special addition which confirms that the property of the CPSU and the CPB remains under the ownership of the state and will not be returned to the party.

Moldova

Publications View Speaker Mosanu's Resignation

AU0302152593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1357 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 3/2/1993— "A Referendum Designed To Disunite a Country" is the title of an article published by daily newspaper COTIDIANUL, wherein an analysis is made of the political situation in the Republic of Moldova.

After showing that the news from Chisinau attested the worsening of the political crisis at the top of the republic's

leadership—a crisis liable to gravely affect the ideal of the union between Bessarabia and its motherland Romania—the newspaper concludes: "the dispute around the referendum has brought about a grave disunion of the legislative forum. Rejected in parliament, Mircea Snegur's adepts fell upon the parliament's leadership and mainly upon Alexandru Mosanu, the politician who through capacity, modesty and balance put his stamp upon the most important acts in the history of that republic. Marginalised by Mircea Snegur, Alexandru Mosanu is compelled to resign, and thus falls the last obstacle in the way of the Chisinau president's arbitrary desires."

Daily newspaper TINERETUL LIBER publishes Alexandru Mosanu's address in the Chisinau Parliament. Mosanu points out that his resignation has ethical and moral grounds "but mainly political ones. The position of the majority and the position of the signatories of the statement is radically different on key political issues, strategic issues." Mosanu declares for a genuine independence in contrast to his opponents who favor "a formal independence without real freedom to act."

"Political tension increases in Chisinau. Positions are irreconcilable" writes daily newspaper CURIERUL NATIONAL.

Daily DREPTATEA quotes inter alia a reaction to the resignation of the Moldovan parliamentarians that reads: "enough persons are inclined to believe that the current parliament crisis in Moldova is in fact a presidential crisis, for which someone must be answerable."

Snegur on Resignations

LD0302182093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The next six minutes will, I believe, be of special interest to inhabitants of Moldova, if the independent state is still relaying Mayak. The fact is that a meeting between government delegations of Moldova and Russia is to be held in Moscow on 9-10 February. A bilateral treaty on economic cooperation in 1993 is expected to be signed. Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated this on national television. According to Snegur, a meeting is planned between him and President Boris Yeltsin on 10 February. As for the present situation in Moldova, that is the topic about which our correspondent Mikhail Sokirke talked to President Mircea Snegur.

[Begin recording] [Sokirke] The events of recent years in Moldova have made President Mircea Snegur very popular. This is demonstrated merely by the fact that, in spite of the events in the Dniester region and the rather keen political struggle, his popularity remains very, very high not only in Moldova but, it seems to me, in many countries of the world. For this reason Mr. President, I would like to concentrate in our interview on two aspects: the international and domestic. Let us begin with the international. Just the other day you returned from France.

[Snegur] First, I would like to thank you for the introduction, for mentioning my popularity and the support of the people. Moldova has been recognized by over 120 countries of the world and has established diplomatic relations with 60. Moldova's foreign policy is a peaceful policy. We have joined all international acts on disarmament, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and so on. As always, the Moldovans are a peace-loving people. We have loved to work and we have loved to bring up and educate our children. We are trying to ensure that this kindness and benevolence is made a part of our foreign policy.

As far as the trip to France is concerned, I would like to say that we were very satisfied with the visit because in France we had meetings and conversations with Senate Speaker M. Monory, with Roland Dumas, the state minister and minister of foreign affairs, and with French President Francois Mitterrand. Furthermore, a treaty was signed on mutual understanding and friendship and cooperation between France and the independent republic of Moldova. But suffice it to say that this is the first Western European highly-developed capitalist country with whom we have concluded such a treaty. It has the same Latin roots in origin and language. In practice we found in France a common language on all issues and problems.

[Sokirke] You, the president, learned about the resignation of parliamentary Chairman Alexandru Mosanu while you were in France. My question is this: How do you assess this step by Alexandru Mosanu, and how do you assess the present political situation in the republic as a whole?

[Snegur] In actual fact it was the second day after arriving in Paris that I received the news that, early in the morning of 29 January, the speaker of the parliament Mr. Mosanu, his first deputy Mr. Hadirca, and commission Chairmen Mr. Nedelciuc and Matei had resigned. Of course, I realized immediately that it was a very great gamble; it was not only the fact that we were in a parliamentary crisis, but on that very day, that very morning, and within just a few hours, they had organized a press conference in order to in some way negatively affect the progress of the official visit to France. But nothing came of this, because I am sure that real politicians are absolutely serious people, more serious people than those who play at resignations and so forth. It is a different thing that I immediately thought they had acted correctly, because if they are unable to run parliament and find a common language with all the chairmen of the parliamentary factions, then they should no longer run that parliament.

The situation both during the visit and after my return was fairly calm. People are reacting calmly to this matter. I would prefer that parliament continue to work productively and that we do away with all these mutual accusations in parliament, and that parliament really gets down to creating the juridical contours of our young state.

[Sokirke] And the final question, Mr. President. Let's say that parliament is dissolved tomorrow. What happens next?

[Snegur] First, I don't believe it will dissolve itself; not until a law on new parliamentary elections on a multi-party

basis is adopted. I think that this is an important factor without which parliament will not be able to dissolve. But the second factor is that parliament, in such an event, should extend the special powers of the president of the republic in solving economic questions of a normative nature by means of a decree. The president remains the guarantor of the observance of the Constitution and of law and order.

[Sokirke] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has been setting out his point of view on events in the republic. [end recording]

Mosanu Accuses Snegur of 'Anti-Democratic Tendency'

OW0302182193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur left on Wednesday [3 February] on a two week working tour of the republic. He will also visit Rishkanskiy and Edinetskiy districts. He intended to be at labor collectives and discuss with farmers the ways getting the republic out of the economic crisis. It is possible that the president will state his own position on the parliamentary crisis in the republic.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On Tuesday the parliament of Moldova in a secret ballot accepted the resignation of its chairman Alexandru Mosanu, the first deputy head of parliament Ion Hadirca, chairmen of permanent commissions on openness and the mass media, Valeriu Matei; on international relations, Vasiliu Nedelciuc; and on ecology and environmental protection, Pavel Gusak. The faction Christian-Democratic peoples front (59 deputies), which supports the position of the leadership of the parliament abstained from the voting.

The resigning leadership of the highest legislative organ who are considered supporters of reunification with Romania, explained their disagreement with the position of the parliamentary majority and president Snegur who is insisting on a referendum on the independence of Moldova.

In Mosanu's opinion the position of the parliamentary majority and the president "are based on the idea of capitulation before the Tiraspol separatists and their Moscow patrons. The means for the realization of this capitulation policy is the referendum to impose pro-imperial forces".

Mosanu also thinks that now in the republic it is becoming increasingly clear that an anti-democratic tendency is appearing towards a return to the totalitarian regime and establishment of the power of one person. He made it clear that he means president Snegur who in his opinion is leaning towards autocracy.

The sharp criticism of the president in the address was also echoed in the speeches of other authors of the announcement of resignation. They accused the president of corruption, illegal exemption from taxation of a number of enterprises, groundless placement of his relations into key posts in the organs of the state power.

The chief adviser to the president of the republic, Ion Borshevich, assessing the developing situation in Moldova in a discussion with an Interfax correspondent, said that in recent days the former speaker of the parliament, Alexandru Mosanu, stood actively against the course of the president on an independent and sovereign Moldova. "If he tried to hide his true views of the problem of reunion with Romania, now he is openly declaring the necessity of such a union", Borshevich emphasized. According to him such a position by Mosanu goes contrary to the opinions of not only the mass of the residents of the republic but also the parliamentary majority. Therefore, the adviser thinks, the resignation of the speaker and his first deputy is fully natural "Alexandru Mosanu had no other choice".

Borshevich did not exclude that the parliamentary crisis could lead to a pre-term dissolution of parliament and the adoption of a law on elections. In such a case Mircea Snegur, in accordance with the constitution of the republic has enough power to continue administering the state, he emphasized.

On Wednesday evening the parliament considered the candidature for the post of the head of parliament. Interfax learnt from reliable sources that the present deputy chairman Victor Puscasu is a realistic candidate for this post.

IF Note: 49 year old Puscasu is a professional lawyer who graduated from the Moscow State University and is well known as a supporter of an independent and sovereign Moldova. He is for friendly relations with all states especially with Moldova's neighbors - Ukraine and Romania. Puscasu repeatedly spoke of the need to permanently support contacts with Russia and other former republics of the USSR. Puscasu supports economic contacts within the CIS but he is against any political unions. Since 1989 he has insisted on the creation of a professional parliament of not more than 120 deputies. During the 12 months before his election as deputy head of parliament Puscasu was a member of the Supreme Court of the republic and its chairman. Puscasu is married with two daughters and a granddaughter. His best sport is volleyball.

Three factions of the parliament "Soglasie", independent and agrarian made up of the parliamentary majority have already expressed their refusal to participate in the election of the new chairman of parliament.

The leader of the most numerous faction the deputy-agrarians, Dmitriy Motspan, that he and those who share his opinions have agreed to participate in the work of the session only on condition that the deputies immediately considered the question of pre-term elections into parliament on a multi-party basis.

Deputies Issue Statement on Snegur

AU0402100393 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 1 Feb 93 p 9

[Gabriel Huides article: "Fifty Parliamentarians in Chisinau Assert: It Becomes More and More Obvious That President Mircea Snegur Is Unable To Lead the Republic"]

[Text] Fifty deputies belonging to the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova [FPCD] and the democratic parliamentary group on Friday, 29 January, have signed a 24-page statement addressed to President Mircea Snegur. While the president was in Paris, SFATUL TARII [COUNTRY COUNSEL], the newspaper of the parliament in Chisinau, published the document.

The statement was issued a short while after the Parliament Presidium members jointly handed in their resignations. Although the persons who resigned mentioned the statement, the document itself does not seem to be linked to their gesture—its text does not event mention the fact that they would resign—but it does warn that President Snegur wishes to dissolve Parliament and organize early elections to ensure a new and more servile law-making body for himself. The personalities who signed the statement accuse President Mircea Snegur of having abusively interfered with inner affairs of the Orthodox Church and they find him culpable for the territorial disintegration of the country.

After the first 20 pages, in which President Snegur's policy is unmasked by means of sound reasoning, the deputies draw the conclusions: "One thing becomes more and more obvious—President Mircea Snegur is unable to lead the republic." The document concludes in the following way: "Esteemed fellow citizens! The process of reinstalling the totalitarian regime and certain chaotic and irreversible processes is more real than ever. The fact that the head of the executive defies the decree on state power(...), his usurpation of the mass media, the continuous utilization of Bolshevik methods to divert public attention from the urgent problems of society, and the intolerance with respect to freedom of speech and free option are each genuine signals indicating that process."

The statement published across two pages of SFATUL TARII not only viciously attacks President Mircea Snegur. It also defines the acute dissent between various parliamentary groups, anticipating a new level of the crisis in the Chisinau Parliament.

Among the persons who signed the statement one can read the names of Deputies Nicolae Dabija, Valeriu Matei, Gheorghe Ghimpu, and Ion Turcanu. Besides the mentioned 50 deputies, others have called up the office of SFATUL TARII to announce that they adhere to the document.

Snegur Calls For Rapid Establishment of National Currency

LD0302200993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 3 February—The need for introducing a national currency in Moldova as soon as possible was stressed by President Mircea Snegur at his meeting with the Republic's bankers. He noted that this is being prompted not only by financial difficulties the country is facing due to the lack of its own money emission. "Should we leave the ruble zone," stated Mircea Snegur, "Russia will treat all cash credits granted to us as foreign debts."

Tensions Over Dniester Region Continue

PM0302160593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 4

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Dniester Region: Six Months After the War"]

[Text] The Dniester region recently found itself once again five minutes away from a war. A company of Dniester region militia entered Bendery Fort, which is held by units of the Russian 14th Army. It did so with the permission of the Army commander, but unbeknownst to the joint control commission which operates in the so-called security zone set up after the introduction of peacekeeping forces to the region.

The Tiraspol authorities had a simple justification for this step—a float bridge regiment was leaving the fort, and Moldovan Armed Forces would try to take its place. An advanced post would be set up on the borders of the Dniester region.

This turn of events is feared in the city too. Rumors about a "new Moldovan move"—which circulate here with striking frequency—keep citizens in a constant state of tension. As a representative of the Bendery workers' committee told me: "The city is hemmed in and tied down."

The presence of a Dniester region Special-Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] company in the Bendery garrison prompted a protest from the Moldovan military representatives on the joint control commission. Their immediate reaction was to send a double-strength Moldovan National Army detachment to the fort. To which A. Lebed—the Army commander and a man with a "tough guy" reputation in Moldova—responded: "Any attempt to seize the fort will be stopped." After which the sides cooled down and the representatives of Russia's peacekeeping forces breathed more easily.

The Dniester region spetsnaz men left the fort. But news subsequently came in that 20 Moldovan tanks were located in a forest near Bendery. The commander of the Dniester region guards immediately ordered armored personnel carriers to move into Bendery. It transpired three hours later that the "intelligence" had been false. The situation was saved by Major Borisenko, a career military man and

Afghan veteran. He played for time throughout the three hours in an attempt to clarify the actual state of affairs. He later said at a press conference: "Only three years ago I would have been shot for failing to carry out such an order." Had he carried it out he would have found the peacekeeping forces firing on his subunit. All armed formations are banned from entering the security zone.

The fact that the situation in Bendery could have exploded was no accident. The only city on the Right Bank to have sworn loyalty to the Dniester region and to have been part of Moldova up to 1940—unlike the Dniester region—the city is becoming a pawn in the trade-offs between Chisinau and Tiraspol. Two authorities are apparently coexisting peacefully in this border city at the moment. There are two Prosecutor's Offices (a Moldovan and a Dniester region one), two courts, and two public education administrations. When Moldovan policemen encounter Dniester region militiamen on joint raids they exchange good-natured handshakes. They are acquainted from their previous jobs.

But the friendly handshakes mask rather strained relations. Were the peacekeeping forces to leave the city, the mechanism of confrontation would start up again. Chisinau, Tiraspol, and Bendery are well aware of this. But, six months after hostilities ended, the peacekeeping forces themselves and their Russian contingent are asking why they are there. The tasks set by the agreement between M. Snegur and B. Yeltsin have been carried out. There is a cease-fire, the armed formations have been disengaged, and peace has been restored. That is, the very conditions that are needed for politicians to operate normally—as discussed last July—have been created. The political decisions which would naturally have crowned any peacekeeping process have not materialized. The situation remains static, threatening to turn the region into a turbid swamp that would slow everything down still further.

A row has started in Tiraspol. It is a region, controlled by virtually nobody, that has demonstrated its economic viability and that has a leadership which came through the trials of war but proved incapable of guaranteeing stability for people in peacetime. On the hitherto united Left Bank the people—unhappy, as is the case everywhere, with the ambiguous position and overblown bureaucratic apparatus—began to grumble. To have 13 ministries and more than 400 officials serving a city of 200,000 is a bit much. The opposition have also leveled accusations of corruption against top representatives of the administration. Moreover, a general sense of suspicion reigns and surveillance is openly carried out. That is how Tiraspol looks today, six months after the conflict.

It is not easy for journalists to work here. On leaving the Tiraspol Administration Press Service you risk being marked down as one of the "president's men" or a supporter of M. Bergman, commander of the Russian 14th Army's Tiraspol garrison. The same man who, renowned for his frank comments in the press and on TV and for being the main unmasker of the "mafia elite" and an "agent of four intelligence services," is, in the words of V. Shevtsov, head of the Dniester region security service—whose name is not actually Shevtsov but Antyufeyev, a former staffer with the Latvian Transport Militia Administration—currently under investigation. As is N. Matveyev, deputy chief of the region's MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]—whose real name is not Matveyev at all but Goncharenko, a former USSR MVD representative for the coordination of the activities of internal troops and the OMON in the Baltic. He is also under investigation by the Latvian Prosecutor's Office.

I will not speculate as to why these people, who hold leading posts in the Dniester region leadership, have been hiding under false names. But that fact alone is enough to cast a shadow over the region as a whole.

Lieutenant General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, who has been actively participating in the political processes, believes that unless there is a rotation in the authorities the situation will deteriorate still further. Asked why a Russian general, whose Army is on a foreign state's territory, is getting involved in something that has nothing to do with him, A. Lebed replied: "The situation here is that people are making a mess, and I will be the one who has to clear it up."

Many people have been talking about this "mess" lately. V. Puscasu, vice chairman of the Moldovan parliament, aligned himself with A. Lebed's opinion, calling the fragile peace in the Dniester region "the calm before the storm." The possibility of new armed conflicts flaring up—provoked this time by an "explosion from within"—is not being ruled out.

Hope of possible integration with Russia has faded in the Dniester region. Ukraine, which has its own precedent in Crimea and a complex situation in other oblasts, has decided not to take the adjacent region under its wing. There is a real chance for the region to uphold its rights within the framework of Moldova. But how? Chisinau is categorical about granting the eastern rayons the status of "trans-Dniester self-administered territory." Tiraspol is insisting on defining relations solely on the basis of a confederal treaty.

Hardly had they begun negotiations than the sides began to exchange protests. And the Moldovan parliament is paralyzed by infighting about a referendum. Through its calls for reunification with Romania, part of the presidium is rebuffing the eastern zone, forcing it to stay on its guard. In this situation there are hardly likely to be any political decisions forthcoming on the Dniester region.

But political vacuums tend to be filled. And a Dniester region-Abkhaz treaty of friendship and cooperation is emerging—an agreement on the basis of which the sides will be striving to set up a consultative council for hot spots and to elaborate a mechanism for ending armed conflicts, using it "as a way of pressuring the CIS." The treaty also includes articles on military aid.

While the Moldovan parliament is sharing out power and deciding whether the republic across the Prut will disappear or exist independently, rumors about Chisinau or

Dniester region tanks are pushing people to the point where no hot spots consultative council will be able to help any longer.

Officials Wary About Abkhaz-Dniester Treaty

AU0302183193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Jan 93 p 11

[Commentary by Svitlana Chala from Chisinau: "The Dniester Region and Abkhazia Have Signed a Treaty"]

[Text] **A treaty was recently signed between the Dniester Region and Abkhazia providing for mutual assistance—political, economic, and military—between the regions.**

Regarding the latter, fears have been voiced in official Moldovan circles that the Dniester Region may become a staging post for transferring Russian weapons to Abkhazia. According to V. Puscasu, deputy chairman of the Moldovan parliament, military interaction already exists, because fellows who gained military experience during the Dniester war are presently involved in armed actions in Abkhazia,

"The Dniester Region and Abkhazia," pointed out V. Puscasu, "once again encroached upon the sovereignty of Moldova and Georgia. This leads to an exacerbation of interstate relations and to a new military conflict."

The recent visit to the Dniester Region by a group of the Russian Supreme Council deputies also provoked a protest on the part of official Cisinau. The delegation was headed by Deputy I. Shashiashvili who represents the communist faction in the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation. The deputies arrived in Tiraspol on their own initiative, having explained their arrival by the "delays in political decisions regarding the status of the region and a possibility of emergence, in this regard, of a new spiral of tension in the Dniester Region." The Russian deputies met with Dniester parliamentarians and with the command of the 14th Army and also visited posts of the Russian peace-keeping forces and border posts in the Dniester Region.

Commentary Views 14th Army Role, Future in Dniester Region

AU0402080793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Jan 93 p 10

[Svitlana Chala commentary: "The Russian Army Is an Alien One Even in the Dniester Region"]

[Text] **"The military contingent of a friendly state that has no territorial, military, or other claims upon the region." This is how the Dniester region defined the status of the Russian Federation troops stationed on its territory. At the same time, the document emphasizes that the presence of Russian troops on the territory of the Dnieper region is a guarantee for peace and political stability in the region.**

However, a reference is made to the fact that "in the negotiations on the legal status and procedure for withdrawing Russia's troops from Moldova, the Dniester side is not represented as an equal partner."

The Dniester region authorities promise to take the servicemen and their families under their social protection and specify their right to housing, pension, and so on. After completing their service in this Moldovan region, Russian Army servicemen can be assured that they will not be evicted from their apartments. In accordance with the laws that are effective in the Dniester region, these apartments become the servicemen's property.

Expanding, in this manner, the life horizons for Russian officers, the Dniester authorities do not, by any means, play the role of benevolent well-wishers. It is rather a well-considered move. If the 14th Army is withdrawn from here, the majority of officers who received apartments and guarantees for the future may stay in the Dniester region and continue service in its army. There will not even be a need to resort to extended military service. The new conscription into the 14th Army will apply mainly to young men from cities and villages of the Left Bank [of the Dniester River].

Soldiers, officers, and, desirably, weapons of the 14th Army must remain here—this is the how the Tiraspol authorities are showing their hand today. They believe that this is the only possibility to defend the region. In this connection, a dispute flared up between Lieutenant General Lebed, commander of the Russian Army, and the city's leadership. The general speaks at practically all public gatherings in Tiraspol, accusing the leadership of the Dniester region of corruption. The elders of the city are of the opinion that the purpose of the commander's speeches is to incite the people against the leadership and take advantage of this for an unimpeded withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of the Dniester region in the future. That is why the law on the status of the 14th Army that was recently adopted in Tiraspol may be regarded as an attempt to put the general, who has been raising too much noise, in his place by limiting his activity to the territory and interests of the units that are subordinated to him.

Notwithstanding the revised benefits for the servicemen, the deputies of the Dniester region, in fact, said to Lebed: "You are a commander of the army of a foreign state." Will this place a full stop in the dispute on who is a greater patriot of the Dniester region—General Lebed or the leadership of the region? In all likelihood, no, because the general's accusations are becoming increasingly flagrant. However, the political games that the commander of the 14th Army is presently conducting with the Dniester region leadership are alarming because today's situation in the region may well play the role of a match thrown into a powder keg.

Commentary Sees Tiraspol Trial as Disguised Political Act

AU0302152493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1125 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/2/1993—"The significance of the trial of the five Romanians in Tiraspol"—in

the self-styled Dniester Moldovan Republic—"goes beyond the significance of a mere legal action. It rather gets the dimensions of a political act in justice-making disguise," reads an extensive commentary in daily ADEVARUL. The article informs that the defendants, put under arrest on June 2, 1992, are sued in court for "having openly opposed and explicitly denied the existence of the self-styled Dniester Moldovan Republic" and it is meant "first of all as a lesson taught by the Tiraspol leaders to those who do not recognize the power there." Also, the daily cautions that the defendants are Romanian ethnics all of them, union supporters, which gives the court suit also "ethnic meanings," being considered as an act of brow beating the Romanian population right of the Dniester. For those reasons, ADEVARUL considers that "the trial becomes in a wider meaning a test of the legitimacy of the Tiraspol power not only before the citizens right of the Dniester but before the whole Europe."

Romania did not acknowledge the legitimacy of the Dniester Moldovan Republic and, consequently, Romania's President Ion Iliescu sent a letter regarding the settlement of the situation of the five detainees in the Dniester region to President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. "This is an unacceptable action in a civilized world," the Romanian president's appeal reads.

ADEVARUL gives excerpts from official documents of bodies from the Republic of Moldova referring to the fact that the self-styled Dniester Republic practices "persecution for political beliefs," and the five Romanian ethnics put under arrest last June are "tortured in the jails of the Tiraspol separatists sustained by the Russian Federation."

The confinement of the five is, according to the newspaper, very restrictive as regards the communication with their families and the correspondence. The paper quotes in this connection the view of Edwin Rekosh, representative of the Washington-based International Group for Human Rights, who said that "one can speak of an inhumane treatment."

Ilie Ilascu, 41, economist, one of the detainees, wrote inter alia in a letter spirited out of the jail late last year and addressed to the press in the Republic of Moldova: "We will reveal at the trial materials and testimonies about Russia's interference in Moldova's and Romania's domestic affairs. We will speak about the secret links between the neo-communist higher echelons of the power in Chisinau, Smirnov's [Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester region] clique and Moscow, even in the period of combat actions. We will not recognize the justice of the so-called Dniester Moldovan Republic, we will attend the trial only if it will be organized by the justice of the Republic of Moldova or by an international court (except for Russia and Ukraine)". The letter refers also to torture and drugs used during the investigation of the five Romanian detainees.

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev 'Satisfied' With Austria Visit

LD0302202293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna February 3 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has ended his visit to Austria on Wednesday [4 February]. In an interview with ITAR-TASS Nazarbayev said that he was satisfied with the results of the visit which will help raise political and economic ties between the two countries to a higher level.

The Kazakh president suggested that Austria and Kazakhstan develop cooperation in machine-building, metal industry, electronics, storage and processing of agricultural products.

Last year a decision was adopted to open a credit line Austria-Kazakhstan which is expected to play an important role in the development of business contacts and promoting investments to Kazakhstan with the participation of Austrian enterprises and companies.

During the visit much attention was paid to the developments in the former Soviet republics. Nazarbayev said that Russia has been and remains the most important strategic partner for Kazakhstan. According to Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan was interested in Russia's remaining a single democratic state and that its democratic transformations be a success, which will be of great importance for all CIS countries.

Discusses Nuclear Arms Safety

AU0302214493 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by correspondent Otto Hoermann in Vienna on 3 February; Nazarbayev speaks in Russian with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Hoermann] Mr. President, you have nuclear weapons. When will the disarmament of strategic weapons begin in Kazakhstan?

[Nazarbayev] First, the problem of intermediate-range missiles has been solved. They have been eliminated. They were eliminated on Kazakh territory. We have signed the START I Treaty on strategic nuclear weapons, together with the United States, and we were the first to ratify START I. No other country has so far ratified START I. We will fulfill its conditions.

[Hoermann] Mr. President, sometimes it is said that you do not have the nuclear weapons under control, that you do not know what is happening with these weapons. Can you say that these weapons are under control in Kazakhstan?

[Nazarbayev] This is incorrect. We founded the united strategic armed forces immediately after the USSR's demise. We put all strategic weapons under a common and unified command. I have visited these units, and I have visited the missile positions. Security there is absolute. There is a unified command. Each state, including Kazakhstan, has the technical possibility to veto the potential use of weapons from Kazakh territory.

[Hoermann] The U.S. President and the Russian president each have a small suitcase with the operational code for the nuclear weapons. Do you also have something like that?

[Nazarbayev] We have given this suitcase to the commander-in- chief of the united strategic armed forces. Thus, no one in the world need be afraid. However, the weapons cannot be used from Kazakh territory if I veto their use. The Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Kazakh presidents have a special communications system, which permits a common decision always and everywhere.

Iranian Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit

Asanbayev, Velayati Meet

LD0302201093 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Today, Vice President Yerik Asanbayev received in Alma- Ata an official delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During the course of talks, it was stressed that last year's visit of President Nursultan Nazarbayev to Iran was an important step in the development of bilateral relations between our countries. Asanbayev informed the guests about the national economic situation and about the important events that have taken place in the Republic. Among them was the adoption of the first Constitution of the sovereign Republic of Kazakhstan.

There was an exchange of opinions on the complex question of Kazakhstan-Iran cooperation. Agreement has been reached that both sides will institute measures in the interest of both countries on the expansion of relations in the area of transportation, use of oil and gas, and more effective use of the potential of the Caspian region. They are intending to direct their efforts toward practical realization of the previously signed agreements. The importance of business-like relations within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization was acknowledged, as well as the necessity to prepare appropriate documents on these questions.

Velayati Meets With Suleymenov

LD0302180693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] On the last phase of his visit to three countries of Central Asia, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today arrived in Alma Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, from Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Velayati later began the first round of his talks with Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Suleymenov. The Kazakhstan foreign minister elaborated on the trend toward expanding ties between the two countries and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its peace efforts in the region, especially in Karabakh. He also said that the stances of the two countries were close and then called for the expansion of relations, especially in economic areas.

Our country's foreign minister, for his part, while calling the Kazakhstan president's visit to Iran valuable, said that efforts by the two countries to expand relations have been fruitful. He also welcomed a proposal by the Kazakhstan president on setting up an expert committee on the issue of bringing about peace and cooperation in the region. He then said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to cooperate in all areas with the Central Asian countries and to facilitate their link to the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

In Tashkent yesterday, Mr. Velayati met the Uzbekistan president who stressed the importance of his country's ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and announced that Uzbekistan had decided to expand the activities of its embassy in Tehran.

Ministers Discuss Cooperation

LD0302215093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by correspondent Dukesh Baimbetov from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In the first half of the day Iranian Foreign Minister'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov. Issues relating to the development of Kazakh-Iranian cooperation in such spheres as transport, oil and gas, and the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic ties were discussed. The need to set up an organization for cooperation between the Caspian states and to elaborate an appropriate convention for this purpose was stressed. It is planned to hold a meeting of a joint intergovernment commission for trade, economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries in Tehran before May.

The protocol on the results of the talks also envisages the opening of a department of the Iranian Saderat Bank and the drawing up of a draft agreement on mutual trips of citizens of both countries.

Discuss Oil, Transportation Agreement

LD0402085193 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Alma-Ata, Feb. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Tuleutay Suleymenov said his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on Wednesday that geographical proximity between Iran and Kazakhstan and their ports on the opposite sides of the Caspian Sea are important factors for expansion of mutual cooperation.

Suleymenov lauded Iran's peace efforts in the region particularly in the Karabakh conflict between the Caucasus republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and said Tehran and Alma-Ata share close stance on the Karabakh issue.

He also announced Kazakhstan's willingness to sell crude oil to its customers via Iran.

Velayati in response, said that practical efforts made by the two countries indicate their "firm resolve" to expand bilateral cooperation.

Velayati saying Iran was ready to start oil cooperation with Kazakhstan, expressed hope that the two sides would sign an agreement for cooperation in the area of transportation during the upcoming visit to Alma-Ata of Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia.

While coordinating their stands in international circles, Iran and Kazakhstan can cooperate to maintain peace and stability in the region, he added.

Velayati heading a delegation arrived in the Kazakh capital today on the last leg of his three nation tour of Central Asia which has also taken him to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Velayati Talks With Izteleuov

LD0302214093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati, who is in Kazakhstan at the head of a political, economic and cultural delegation, met the economics minister of that country [Besenbay Izteleuov] on Wednesday afternoon.

The Kazakh economics minister said that the signing of economic cooperation agreements between the two countries during the past year was an indication of the desire of their officials to expand cooperation in all fields.

For his part, referring to the membership of both Iran and Kazakhstan in the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Organization for Cooperation of Caspian Sea Littoral Countries, Mr. Velayati cited possible fields for cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Velayati arrived in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, on Wednesday morning on a four-day official visit to the republic.

Cabinet Approves National Privatization Program

OW0402023293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The blueprint of a national privatisation programme covering the period of 1993-1995 was given a

cabinet approval on Tuesday [2 February]. The outline plan was approved by the National Economic Reform Council meeting in full session in Alma-Ata late on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko chairing it.

Under the new plan, the government is solely in charge of the privatisation of state-run industries and businesses, but the whole of the country's population is to be involved in the privatisation campaign in line with what was described as the principles of social justice and the citizen's constitutional right to a share of state property.

State-owned enteprises subject to privatisation are broken into three groups: large, medium and small-size enterprises with a workforce of more than 5,000, between 200 and 5,000 and less than 200 respectively, with basic assets running at more than Rbl [ruble] 100mln [million], between Rbl 5 mln and Rbl 100 mln and less than Rbl 5mln by January 1, 1992 respectively.

These can be privatised in line with individual projects, by share-issuing or transfer to the workforce.

Full reassessment must be done of the basic assets with inflation taken into account before a state-owned enterprise is transformed into a stock company.

The first two groups are to be converted into open-end companies early this year, with all shares being initially owned by the government. Later, these will be transferred fully or in part to the workforce, the public and also to "other non-government legal or physicial entities".

Residents of Kazakhstan are entitled to investment coupons whose value will be stated in comparison units rather than roubles to save the trouble of regular indexation.

A mechanism is also envisaged to help nationals of other countries take part in the republic's privatisation campaign.

The government is to issue a list of "strategically-important enteprises" either banned for privatisation or allowed to change hands by the government alone.

The new plan was sent for presidential approval on Wednesday.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The National Economic Reform Council was set up on January 13, 1993 following president Nazarbayev' relevant decree. The Council is vested with sweeping powers and its resolutions are mandatory for execution by all tiers of government and economic management structures. It comprises the first deputy prime minister, fiance and economics ministers, the president of the national bank and heads of the property and anti-monopoly committees.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev: Republic 'Sharply Needs' Gold Over Uranium

OW0302175393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Concern "Kyrgyzaltyn" (Kyrgyz gold) should become the center of gold production in Kyrgyzstan. Explaining the necessity of this move to the leaders of republic's leading mining complex, President Askar Akayev, in particular, said that his Decree on creation of a concern instead of a group of separate enterprises will help to accumulate production of this precious metal in a single state structure.

According to Akayev, the former practice under which small businesses belonging to different departments were engaged in deposits' development and commercial operations was the cause of an uncontrolled export of gold and other rare metals abroad.

In particular, the Kara-Balty mining complex which, according to President's Decree, is to become the central gold extracting and processing structure of "Kyrgyzaltyn" concern was a part of the former Union production association "Yuzhpolimetall" and was producing enriched uranium. The aim of President's appearance at the enterprise was to force leadership of the complex to change its production orientation as republic sharply needs gold to go out of economic crisis.

U.S. Agreement on Capital Investment Signed

LD0302220193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1650 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The United States and Kyrgyzstan have signed in Washington a bilateral agreement on capital investment which is expected to take further their business and economic relations. Kyrgyzstan worked to create conditions that might attract foreign investors, said the representative of the U.S. President at the talks. The agreement stipulates most favorable terms for mutual capital investments, access to international arbitrage, and free capital inflow.

Vilnius, Bishkek Sign Trade Agreement for 1993

OW0402125793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1142 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Bishkek the trade ministers of Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan have signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation for 1993 and on free trade. The Kyrgyz minister Andrey Iordan told BF [BALTFAX] that the agreements are a result of mutual efforts to restore old

economic ties. He stressed that the agreements imply the possibility of economic integration.

The free trade agreement implies that all trade structures will be involved. It also offers mutual property guarantees. The sides will not restrict exports and imports or introduce customs tariffs.

Tajikistan

Russian Defense Minister Arrives in Dushanbe for Talks

LD0402092593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Galina Gridneva, Andrey Naryshkin and KHOVAR news agency correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 4 TASS—General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defence, arrived here from Tashkent on Thursday morning. Talks between the Russian minister and the Tajik leadership, republican parliament chief Imamali Rakhmonov in particular, began behind closed doors.

ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned that the talks will deal with the status and future of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division, possibilities for Russia's assistance in the formation of Tajikistan's armed forces under the collective security treaty, and other matters concerning Russia's military strategy in Tajikistan.

Discusses National Army

OW0402093893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0928 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Dushanbe the leader of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov has received the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

After the meeting Rakhmonov told journalists that the two sides discussed the strengthening of the border and the formation of a Tajik national army.

Grachev said 31 representatives of the Russian Defence Ministry will remain in Tajikistan to help form the local army. He also said one of the main purposes of his visit to Dushanbe was to agree on the status of the 201st Russian Division stationed in Tajikistan and the Tajik Air Defence Force. He emphasized that in keeping with the collective security treaty of the CIS Tajikistan should be included in the joint air defence system. Russia like other commonwealth countries have definite strategic interests there, he said.

After the talks with the Tajik leader the minister met officers of the 201st division and discussed the social problems of militarymen. He is also planning to visit Russian Army units in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab as well as a section of the border with Afghanistan.

Agrees on 201st Division's Status

OW0402174193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said the 201st Russian division will remain in Tajikistan but will still be under Russia's authority. Following Thursday's [4 February] meeting with Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajik parliament, behind closed doors in Dushanbe, Grachev told Interfax the division's status was the first subject they dealt with. The other two subjects were the restoration of a single Central Asian air defense system and assistance Russia can give Tajikistan on the basis of the collective security treaty, namely in defense against possible aggression and in forming its own armed forces.

The Russian minister said it was decided to form expert groups which are to work out, by Friday, concrete proposals on the three subjects he discussed with Rakhmonov.

On Thursday afternoon, Grachev and Rakhmonov had a meeting with the 201st division's command, at which the defense minister confirmed that the division will remain part of the Russian armed forces, saying that the Tajik armed forces will be based on Tajikistan's own infrastructure. However, the division's logistic units will be put under Tajikistan's authority.

Grachev again insisted that CIS states should send peacekeeping forces to Tajikistan, in keeping with their agreements.

The same day, the Russian minister met the leader of the pro-government Popular Front, Sangak Safarov. The front's armed detachments at the end of last year took control of Dushanbe and ousted opposition detachments from many of the republic's districts. According to well-informed sources in Dushanbe, Safarov expressed concern at the meeting about a possible counteroffensive the Islamic Party of Tajikistan might launch this spring.

On Friday, Grachev and Rakhmonov are planning to visit the 201st division's units stationed in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube.

Rakhmonov, Kozyrev Hold Phone Conversation

OW0402115893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmonov and the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev exchanged opinions on the prospects of bilateral cooperation in defence among other spheres during telephone talks on Wednesday [3 February]. According to the press department of the Russian Foreign Minister, the speaker thanked Russia for support to Tajikistan and stressed the importance of the visit by the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to his country beginning on Thursday.

Turkmenistan

President Introduces Land Private Ownership Program

LD0202143393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Kurban Babayev report from Ashgabat; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today marks a turning point for Turkmenistan's agricultural workers, who make up 56 percent of the republic's population. Addressing a conference, President Niyazov announced the introduction of private ownership of land. Some of those who are interested will be able to receive it as early as this year: A plot of up to 50 hectares is being allocated to every family. Or up to 500 hectares can be leased on condition that the land is worked mainly to meet state orders.

The new reform is intended to last 10 years, and as the president pointed out, it will be no easy matter to switch to private ownership of land—unlike central Russia, for example, where there are plenty of abandoned villages—as rural areas of Turkmenistan are badly overpopulated. There is a shortage of jobs, and the processing industry is no more than embryonic. For this reason, the collective and state farm system will feel its way extremely carefully. The first stage of the reform entails closing down unprofitable farms. Also, scientific support is essential, as are lessons from other countries' experience. Vast amounts of money will be needed. New procurement prices for agricultural produce, brought into line with inflation, were announced at the conference.

Further on Land Ownership

OW0402023193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, appearing on Tuesday [2 February] before the Congress of Agricultural Complex Workers, said that he had signed a decree on the right to ownership and use of land in the republic. According to the document, any citizen of Turkmenistan, including those in the public sector, may receive, through purchase or long-term rent, a plot of land of up to 50 hectares. The land is allotted "so as to introduce the production of agricultural goods on the basis of private entrepreneurship without the rights of sale, exchange, or transfer." The document also stipulates that in the event the landowner fails to use the land "for the intended purpose" for two years, his right to private ownership of the land will be abrogated.

The president promised that the government would grant 5-10 Mn [million] rubles of credits to long-term cultivators of land.

Niyazov was presented at the congress with a document granting him 50 hectares of land. The president, for his part, promised that he would raise wheat on the land.

The head of state also proclaimed new purchase and retail prices. Prices had risen by 2-3 times on average. The president also announced a twofold minimum wage increase.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Niyazov had announced his intent to privately own land at the end of last summer. He was motivated by the desire to encourage, by way of personal example, the formation of a class of entrepreneurs and the market transformation of the society.

Uzbekistan

Russian Minister Arrives for Talks on Military Issues

LD0302170693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Tashkent, 3 Feb—Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, who has arrived in Tashkent at the head of a Russian military delegation, are to hold talks this evening.

As Pavel Grachev told correspondents on board the aircraft, one of the main aims of the talks is to reach agreements on positions in the sphere of military-technical cooperation and in the implementation of bilateral deliveries of foodstuffs and material property for the needs of the armed forces of Russia and Uzbekistan. There are also plans to discuss the possibility of the joint use of strategically important facilities on Uzbek territory. As specified by Pavel Grachev, the question revolves around antiaircraft, intelligence-gathering, and space-monitoring facilities.

It is also planned in Tashkent to study issues connected with the service of Russian officers and soldiers in Uzbekistan and Uzbeks in Russia. As is known, 80 percent of the officer corps of Uzbekistan's armed forces is made up of Russian citizens. At the same time, over 4,000 Uzbeks are currently serving in Russia. Since this state of affairs fully suits the leadership of the two countries, it is necessary to coordinate positions on certain aspects regarding the procedures for serving, the transfer of servicemen, and the safeguarding of their social rights. Simultaneously with the talks between top officials, experts will be working out joint plans for combat and mobilization training and the holding of military exercises involving units of the Russian and Uzbek armed forces.

Tomorrow, at the initiative of Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Russian minister will hold consultations with representatives of the Republic's top political leadership. Their main theme will be the status of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division and the possibility of building the Republic's national forces on its basis. The issue is still of a purely theoretic nature, Pavel Grachev emphasized. At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility that this approach will prove the most acceptable, since Tajikistan is also a participant in the collective security treaty. Pavel Grachev also plans to meet the command and personnel of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division and visit those units where the service conditions for the Russian military remain most difficult.

Grachev, Akhmedov Meet

OW0302171693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who arrived to Tashkent on Wednesday [3 February] conducted negotiations with the head of Uzbek Defense Ministry Rustam Akhmedov. Russian Defense Minister is to meet with President Islam Karimov in the near few hours.

On his arrival to Tashkent Grachev reported to journalists that he intends to discuss issues concerning military-technical cooperation and logistics of forces with the Uzbek leadership, in particular, deliveries of food stuffs and clothing stores to the Russian army in Uzbekistan In Grachev's words, the agenda of his negotiations with Uzbek leadership contains issues related to order of service of Russian troops on Uzbekistan's territory. Grachev pointed out that today more than 4000 Uzbeks are servicing on Russia's territory. At the same time there are 80% of Russian- speaking officers in Uzbek armed forces now.

Russian Defense Minister also reported that he intends to discuss the problem on joint exploitation of strategically important sites: air defense sites, space tracking facilities, etc.

On Thursday February 4, Grachev plans to depart for Dushanbe where, as he said, he will discuss the fate and status of the 201st motor-rifle division at the request of Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of Tajik Supreme Soviet.

Grachev reconfirmed the possibility to render assistance in formation of Tajikistan's armed forces on the part of Russian Defense Ministry. According to the Minister, he intends to meet with the command and personnel of the 201st division, to visit its units, in which the situation is especially hard, to examine sites guarded by Russian soldiers at the request of the Tajik leadership. Grachev declared that he will send all servicemen who do not wish to serve in Tajikistan to Russia. "Only volunteers will remain here," the Minister underlined.

Ministers Agree on Cooperation

LD0302205993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2040 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Tashkent February 3 TASS—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev met with his Uzbek counterpart Rustam Akhmedov in Tashkent on Wednesday to discuss military cooperation between the two republics. The parties reached agreement on military and technical cooperation and joint use of strategic facilities situated in Uzbekistan in the interest of the CIS states which signed an agreement on collective security. Grachev and Akhmedov also discussed military service for Russians in Uzbekistan and Uzbeks in Russia. Later in the day, Grachev was received by Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Early on Thursday, Grachev will fly to Dushanbe to meet with Tajik leaders to discuss the status and the fate of the 201st Russian Motorised Infantry Division stationed in Tajikistan, as well as Russia's assistance to Tajikistan in establishing its own armed forces under the treaty on collective security.

Further on Visit by Iranian Foreign Minister

Velayati 'Satisfied' With Visit

LD0302194393 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tashkent, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati winding up his high-ranking mission to Uzbekistan left Tashkent for Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Sadyk Safayev who saw off Velayati told IRNA that new steps were taken for expansion of bilateral ties and the two sides followed up their earlier agreements.

He hailed Velayati's visit as 'positive'.

Velayati also felt satisfied with the process of implementation of the letter of understanding inked between the two countries in the field of banking, trade, transportation, exchange of students and scientific cooperation.

Minister Praises Iranian Goods

LD0302194993 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tashkent, Feb. 3, IRNA—Uzbek Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Safa Yusef, met with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Va'ezi in Tashkent last night.?

Praising the 'high quality' of Iranian commodities, Yusef called on Iran to open stores in Uzbekistan to introduce Iranian made productions to Uzbek customers.

The two sides surveyed the work of the working committees formed during the visit to Tehran by Uzbek President, Islam Karimov, last November.

Va'ezi, who forms part of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's high ranking delegation, in reply voiced Iran's readiness to have multilateral relations with Uzbekistan in the areas of trade and economy.

Armenia

Decree Names Bagratyan Acting Prime Minister

LD0302142493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 3 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan signed a decree on Wednesday [3 February] appointing Grant Bagratyan acting prime minister of the Republic of Armenia.

The decree also urges other members of the Cabinet to continue performing their duties until a new government is formed.

Bagratyan, 35, will replace Khosrov Arutyunyan who had been holding the post of prime minister since July 1992 and was dismissed on Tuesday [2 February].

Bagratyan was born in 1958. With a decree in economics, he worked in the Armenian State Planning Committee and the Republican Institute of Economics.

In 1990, he was appointed first deputy prime minister and head of the Armenian State Economics Committee. In December 1992, Bagratyan became deputy prime minister, minister of economics. Bagratyan already worked as acting prime minister between September-November 1991.

Ter-Petrosyan Outlines Priorities for Government

LD0302175793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 3 TASS—The priority lines of the activities of the Armenian Government should include the supply of the population with electric power and bread, as well as the organisation of operation of most important industrial enterprises, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia said speaking at the government session today.

The Armenian leader expressed hope that the Cabinet of Ministers will work as a single team which will enable it to overcome by joint effort the difficulties confronting the republic now. The first task of the government should be to ensure vital functions of the republic, the president's press service quoted Levon Ter-Petrosyan as saying.

Officials To Discuss Forces Pullout From Nakhichevan

OW0302173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of Ararat regional administration in Armenia met on Tuesday [2 February] with their counterparts from Sadarak region of Nakhichevan Autonomy to address options for pulling out their armed detachments from strategic heights on the Armenian-Azeri border. Interfax was informed about that by the press center of the Armenian Defense Ministry. The parties also discussed the problems of safety as regards cargo transit from Iran to Armenia through the territory of Nakhichevan Autonomy [as received].

During the meeting the sides agreed to continue their dialogue. The time and place of their next meeting is yet to be determined.

Presidential Adviser Views Contacts in Turkey

NC0402081393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Grigor Gozalyan on a news conference held by Zhirair Liparityan, the president's adviser on foreign policy affairs, in the presidential mansion on 3 February—recorded]

[Text] [Gozalyan] Commenting on his and Davit Shakhnazaryan's recent official visit to Turkey and on interstate agreements reached with the Turkish Government, Liparityan said:

[Liparityan] The meeting took place at 1700 on Sunday [31 January]. On Monday morning Davit Shakhnazaryan left for Prague to take part in the CSCE senior officials council meeting, which opened yesterday. I returned to Armenia on Tuesday because Monday's flight to Kars was canceled due to a storm.

Our main meeting took place with Prime Minister Demirel at 1700 on Sunday. Deputy Premier Erdal Inonu, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, and two high-level Foreign Ministry officials responsible for Caucasian affairs also attended at Demirel's request.

We also had [words indistinct] unscheduled meetings with the high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials and held informal consultations.

The meeting [with Suleyman Demirel] lasted one hour and 20 minutes. In line with a previous agreement, we spoke about President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's requests for humanitarian assistance and examined the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, bilateral relations, and problems of general interest.

Prime Minister Demirel saw no obstacles to the delivery of grain and said no grain was delivered to us in line with the agreement between us. He issued new instructions for the unimpeded delivery of grain to Armenia. So no problem exists on this issue.

The second issue President Levon Ter-Petrosyan raised with Prime Minister Demirel was the delivery of power. Demirel said the government agrees to deliver power to Armenia, but not as much as requested by Levon Ter-Petrosyan during his telephone conversation with Demirel. According to Demirel, the power supply will be limited for technical reasons. The issue will be examined further. The Turkish Government promised to do all it can to make a final decision and implement it. In their opinion, this must be done.

The third issue concerned the French Government's request to transport French-donated fuel oil and other humanitarian aid through Turkey. Demirel said the Turkish Government sees no problem with transporting the French-donated fuel oil or humanitarian aid to Armenia through Turkish territory. Only practical issues remain, which must be solved through cooperation among the French, Turkish, and Armenian Governments to ensure the transport of the freight.

The second, longer part of the talks touched on other problems. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan conveyed our concerns on these issues in a letter to Demirel, which we handed to him. They all read it. We recounted our concerns and position on solving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, on a cease-fire, bilateral relations, and regional problems in general.

Prime Minister Demirel expounded the Turkish Government position. We conveyed our objections to this position, pointing out our differences and saying which of their arguments we thought were wrong, and enumerating those measures that must be taken to bring about a cease-fire without preconditions, after which serious negotiations should commence.

I can say that while our position and objections were conveyed to them in earlier meetings and international talks and the Turkish Foreign Ministry knew of them, I think this was the first time Demirel heard our general exposition and saw our objections argued in detail, in terms of their practicality and general logical approach.

The meeting ended with the prime minister promising to give serious thought to our objections. I told him I will convey his position to our president. We agreed that such consultations must continue and that we must exchange and clarify views on Nagorno-Karabakh and related problems in general to find out how a cease-fire can be implemented speedily. In general, Prime Minister Demirel assured us that their main wish and concern is to establish peace and stability in the region to facilitate bilateral relations; that they are ready to establish all sorts of trade, economic, and other ties; that they see no problem in principle, rather they consider it necessary that Armenia should burgeon; and that they forecast broad cooperation with Armenia.

[Gozalyan] Next, based on his impressions at the meetings and talks in Turkey and on this meeting virtually being the first serious, deep and sincere examination of Armenia's problems with the Turkish Government, Liparityan said he hoped Turkey would fulfill its promises.

Liparityan then answered correspondents' questions on Armenia's political orientation and Armenian foreign policy [words indistinct].

Azerbaijan

Georgia's Shevardnadze, Elchibey Discuss Cooperation

Shevardnadze Arrives 3 Feb

NC0302114793 Baku TURAN in English 0926 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 3 Feb (TURAN)—The official visit of the chairman of the Georgian Parliament Eduard Shevardnadze in the head of the Georgian state delegation in Azerbaijan began today in Baku.

It is the first visit of such a high rank of the Georgian side within last three years.

As the press-service of the Azeri president informed, the confidential talk of Shevardnadze and Elchibey, official negotiations of representatives of both states, signing of the declaration on friendship and co-operation between Georgia and Azerbaijan as well as a number of agreements enveloped a number of different spheres of co-operation will take place in the bounds of the visit.

Eduard Shevardnadze will conduct just today the summit with the chairman of the Azeri Parliament Isa Kambarov and members of the cultural centre "Azerbaijan-Georgia."

The working part of the visit will be ended by the combined press-conference of the leadership of both sides.

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

NC0302145093 Baku TURAN in English 0926 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Baku 3 Feb (TURAN)—The Georgian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Malkhaz Kokabadze announced in his talk with the TURAN correspondent, that the visit of the Georgian state delegation in Azerbaijan is to determine the main direction of the future co-operation of the both Caucasus states.

Kokabadze confessed that "the both sides meet troubles and committed a number of neglects." But at the same time he marked that "history settled even and mutual respectable relations of two Muslim and Christian people within hundreds of years of co-existence."

The Georgian diplomat announced that both sides came to a common opinion on the necessity of unification of efforts on normalization of the situation on the Caucasus. "The process of regulation of conflicts in the region is to be realized by the Caucasus people themselves by the way of peaceful negotiations at the round table and the present meeting is the important step in this direction,"—marked Kokabadze.

Speaker Kamberov Comments

NC0302173093 Baku AZERTAC in English 1403 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, February 3 (AZERTAC)—Isa Kamberov, the speaker of the Azeri parliament, estimated two-sided Azeri-Georgian talks in Baku as another step to re-establish the peace in the Caucasian region. He claimed it after his meeting with the representatives of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, which had gone behind the closed doors.

Isa Kamberov was questioned about his attitude to Shevardnadze's idea of three Transcaucasian republics meeting, and he answered that the meeting was inevitable. However, in his opinion, it is necessary to prepare all documents carefully for this summit, in order the meeting would not have formal character.

The Azeri and Georgian delegations visited the Alley of Martyrs. Shevardnadze laid a wreath on graves of victims of events in Baku on the 20th January and the war in Karabakh.

Shevardnadze Speaks to Press

LD0302193693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1411 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Baku correspondent Kuliyev]

[Text] Azerbaijani-Georgian talks began after a confidential meeting between Shevardnadze and President Abulfaz Elchibey. A delegation headed by Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian parliament, arrived in Baku two days before the talks. Its members have prepared a package of documents on all aspects of vital importance to both republics, which include trade and economic agreements and agreements on transport and communications. There are proposals for bilateral investments and programs for health, tourism, science and cultural exchanges, and interparliamentary contacts. A number of projects are related to the economic interests of neighboring countries, particularly Iran and Turkey.

Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, said in his intervew with GEORGIA newspaper, reprinted by our central newspapers today: We believe that the treaty with Azerbaijan goes far beyond our bilateral interests.

Undoubtedly, Georgia and Azerbaijan have their own specific reasons for the agreement, based on historical traditions, common boundaries, and economic interests, as well as the fact that many Georgians live in Azerbaijan and nearly 500,000 Azeris live in Georgia.

Eduard Shevardnadze and members of his delegation in the afternoon laid wreaths on the graves of the national heroes, sons and daughters of Azerbaijan who died for the freedom and independence of their republic. The Georgian leader was then received by Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov.

I think that Mayak's listeners would like to hear Eduard Shevardnadze's view on the results of the Baku talks. Here is the recording of our conversation:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Mr. President and I have just been talking about opening a new page in the history of our two peoples. These are not empty words. They mean the number and content of those agreements which we will sign here. In all, there will be 24 agreements. We have adopted a legal basis on which relations between our two independent states will be built. We have achieved remarkable results. I have no doubt that in the nearest future the Caucasus will become a region of peace and calm. [end recording]

At this moment, a ceremony of signing the friendship and cooperation treaty between Azerbaijan and Georgia is taking place in the Gulistan Palace. This will be followed by a joint news conference for local and foreign correspondents. The Georgian Council of State chairman will depart for Tbilisi today.

Delegations Discuss Cooperation

LD0302152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Ziyadkhan Asanov and Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku February 3 TASS—Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey had a confidential meeting with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on Wednesday [3 February] in Baku. No other details of the meeting were immediately available.

The delegations of the two republics led by Elchibey and Shevardnadze met later in the day to discuss draft documents, including a declaration on cooperation and good neighbourly relations between Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as agreements on trade, economic and banking cooperation, settlement of customs disputes and other documents.

The parties are also expected to discuss issues connected with the position of the Azerbaijani community in Georgia.

Shevardnadze described the talks as very fruitful. The parties reached an agreement to conduct mutual payments both in roubles and hard currency.

Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said Georgia will supply eight to ten types of goods to Azerbaijan in exchange for 64 types of commodities, including petroleum products, electrical equipment, machinery and products of the chemical industry.

AZERTAC reports that during the closed-door talks between Elchibey and Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader requested more supplies from Azerbaijan. Elchibey said the list of goods subject to export to Georgia may be expanded if the economic situation in Azerbaijan allows to do so.

The talks also revealed some disagreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia over the draft Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and on mutual security, particularly provisions concerning the rights of ethnic minorities.

The parties agreed to bring the documents in compliance with international law and set up a joint commission to oversee the implementation of political agreements.

Agreements Reached; Leaders Comment

NC0302185693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, speaker of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, arrived in Baku today. He was met at the airport by President Abulfaz Elchibey and other state officials. The leaders of the two neighboring republics conferred for some time. The talks between the two sides were held later.

The two sides have drawn up 22 agreements, which will be signed in the talks. The main document is the agreement for friendship, cooperation, and [word indistinct] security. Article 19 of that document is of particular importance for the two countries. It calls for safeguarding the national minorities in the two republics. According to the agreement, the sides will be able to freely use each other's territory to export their products. Agreement has been reached to establish an intergovernmental committee to coordinate all the accords signed during Shevardnadze's visit.

During his meeting with Shevardnadze, Elchibey said: We represent the will of our respective peoples. Our talks will be the first step toward the realization of the principle of peace and goodneighborly relations in the Caucasus. The two friendly countries respect each other's territorial integrity and plan to establish their future relations based on this main principle.

Shevardnadze asserted: [Words indistinct] and we try to establish the basis for mutual relations and support each other to be able to realize the lofty wishes of our peoples. We must resolve our own problems without the help of any mediator. Establishing peace in the Caucasus is our sacred duty.

The members of the Georgian delegation visited the martyrs' cemetery after they attended a luncheon and bowed their heads in memory of the martyrs who fell for the sake of freedom. Eduard Shevardnadze also held talks with Isa Kamberov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. They discussed matters related to the cooperation of the parliaments of the two neighboring countries.

A ceremony was held in Gulistan Palace for the signing of official documents. Later, Elchibey and Shevardnadze held a joint news conference.

Shevardnadze Suggests Caucasus Summit

LD0302194593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Ziyadkhan Gasanov and Alla Baula]

[Text] Baku February 3 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has suggested holding a summit meeting of the leaders of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to discuss the situation and ways to restore peace in the region. Azerbaijani parliament speaker Isa Kamberov supported the idea, saying that such meeting has long been ripe and therefore is inevitable. He stressed the need, however, to prepare the necessary documents, so that the meeting would not be just a formal gathering with a lot of empty talking. Kamberov met with Shevardnadze in camera today. No details of the meeting were immediately available. However, Kamberov described the talks as yet another step towards restoring peace in the Caucasus.

News Conference Held

LD0302200493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1947 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Alla Baula, Ziyadkhan Gasanov for TASS]

[Text] Baku February 3 TASS—"The signing of documents on cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia shows that the psychology of war is being replaced by the psychology of peace and mutual understanding," said Azeri leader Abulfaz Elchibey at a news conference in Baku upon completion of the visit to Baku by the Georgian parliament Chairman Eduard Shevarnadze.

According to Elchibey, the signing of documents has laid a foundation for the establishment of the Caucasian home of peace and accord.

Shevarnadze said that his visit shows that there are no frictions between Azerbaijan and Georgia and that all political problems can be resolved by peaceful means at a negotiating table. He confirmed that the achieved agreements can trigger peacekeeping processes in the Caucasus.

Shevarnadze said that before departure from Baku he spoke on the telephone with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan who approved of his decision to visit Baku.

In reply to journalists' question about Georgia's attitude to the CIS, Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said that in his opinion, the CIS is an artificial and rather amorphous structure. He declared that Georgia would never join the Commonwealth no matter what terms might be suggested.

Later in the day Shevarnadze left for Tbilisi.

Elchibey's Letter to President Clinton Reported

NC0402083193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani presidential press service has revealed: President Abulfaz Elchibey wrote to President

Bill Clinton to congratulate him on his inauguration as U.S. President and to wish him happiness and success. Stressing that the world role and responsibility of the United States and the U.S. President have increased, President Elchibey said:

In his recent letter to me, your predecessor George Bush applauded the democratic process in Azerbaijan, but he said he had been informed that we did not yet support the package of measures drawn up in Geneva for a cease-fire agreement in Daghlykh Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh].

Armenia and several other countries are trying to create the impression that in the talks held by five countries in Geneva in December 1992, we agreed to regard the Armenians in Yukhary Karabakh [Upper Karabakh] as a side to the dispute in the region. That approach conflicts with our position and the way we see developments.

Yukhary Karabakh, which everyone sees as part of Azerbaijan's territory, is populated not only by Armenians, but also by Azerbaijani people. This is why we are prepared to agree that the peace talks in Minsk consider the views of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities.

President Elchibey also stressed that Azerbaijan supports holding talks to settle the problems peacefully and noted that the opposite side has undermined every effort made in that direction. He explained in detail incidents in the Transcaucasus and emphasized that the war on Azerbaijan's territory is not the outcome of Armenia's first act of aggression against our republic in line with its territorial claims.

President Elchibey asserted that the first act of aggression resulted in the separation of Zangezur province from Azerbaijan in 1921. But, he said, the republic's government, respecting the UN Charter and the fundamental principles upheld by the U.S. State Department, including the principle of the inviolability of existing borders, did not raise the question of the return of Azerbaijan's former territories. It is clear that the aggression is aimed at wresting Yukhary Karabakh from Azerbaijan.

President Elchibey drew attention to the Armenian Supreme Soviet's decision to annex part of Azerbaijan and to the effort made to establish an inauspicious republic—the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic—on Azerbaijan's territory and presented facts to prove that Azerbaijan's border has been violated, that the republic's towns and villages have been occupied, that peaceful Azerbaijani citizens in Daghlykh Karabakh have become refugees, and that blood is shed daily. He said the republic lamented foreign countries failing to [word indistinct] the aggression.

President Elchibey said people have been misinformed by the strong Armenian lobbies in the United States and other countries, adding that Azerbaijan's effort to defend its territory has been described as a move prompted by ethnic or religious disputes. President Elchibey urged President Clinton to protect himself against the influence of various lobbies in U.S. politics and to move to personally contribute toward restoring peace and stability in the region so that democracy and development can prevail.

Russian Quotas, Customs Duties Discussed at Talks

NC0302211693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The new customs regulations Russia plans to put into effect as of 1 February will obstruct the improvement of economic relations between Azerbaijan and that country. President Elchibey touched on this subject in the telephone conversation he held with President Yeltsin on 26 January.

The Azerbaijan Presidential Press Service has disclosed that talks were held at the Russian Ministry of Economics and Finance in Moscow between Russia and Azerbaijan after the two presidents conferred on 26 January. Khikmet Gadzhizade, Azerbaijan's responsible representative in Russia, is heading the republic's delegation to the talks, which are mainly on the question of the enlargement of quotas and the lowering of customs.

Azerbaijan's delegation has disclosed that we cannot separate matters related to economic cooperation from political and military relations with Russia. In view of this, the problems must be resolved as a whole. The emergence of serious problems in economic relations will naturally have a bearing on other fields.

The Russian side considered Azerbaijan's approach and increased the quotas of all the commodities supplied to our republic, with the exception of nonferrous metals.

Regarding the question of the lowering of customs, the normative (?standards) Russia has planned to apply in its trade with the CIS republics should also apply to Azerbaijan. That problem is being discussed by high-level political leaders. The talks are continuing.

Withdrawal From Ruble Area Possible

PM0302175593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Report from the ITAR-TASS, INTERFAX, UKRINFORM, YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST "Events, Facts, Views" roundup: "Azerbaijan May Leave the Ruble Area"]

[Text] Azerbaijan may find itself in a difficult economic situation if Russia fails to alter its customs policy, R. Karayev, minister of foreign economic relations, stated when commenting on the Russian Government decision to introduce 65-percent customs duties. If no mutually acceptable decision is reached, and the Russian Government stands its ground, Karayev declared, then it will only remain for Azerbaijan to leave the ruble area.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Previews Azerbaijan Trip, Agreements

NC0202212193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Announcer-read interview with Eduard Shevardnadze published in the newspaper GEORGIA; place and date not given]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state of Georgia and speaker of the Georgian Parliament, has replied to the questions asked of him by the newspaper GEORGIA as follows:

[Question] Newspapers report that you have received an official invitation to visit Azerbaijan. When will the visit take place? Can you also explain its objective?

[Answer] We had a mutual initiative with President Abulfaz Elchibey. Our meeting will be based on a mutual agreement and be held in Baku early in February. The objective is to create a favorable basis for new relations between Georgia and Azerbaijan. We will become acquainted with the delegation of representatives who have been authorized to conclude agreements on all matters related to relations between foreign states.

Our meeting can be regarded as a finalizing initiative to a certain degree because we have already had a mutual agreement with Mr. Elchibey. We have had an opportunity to [words indistinct]. Significant work has been carried out by our diplomats and the leading officials of the ministries and main administrations. In view of this, we now hope that we will be able to discuss a mutual agreement between the two republics to cover every aspect of our relations.

[Question] What will be included in the agreement that is expected to be reached between the two sides?

[Answer] The agreement will cover matters related to establishing businesslike cooperation; trade and economic relations, which are vitally important for the two republics; cooperation in transportation and communications; proposals on mutual investments; exchanges in medicine, tourism, science, and culture; parliamentary relations; and [words indistinct]. It will also cover several projects that concern the interests of neighboring countries, such as Iran and Turkey. For example, Georgia may provide an opportunity to settle problems related to the transportation of passengers and freight. Meanwhile, Georgia greatly needs energy resources, particularly petroleum products. Other mutually beneficial proposals will be made to reach agreements.

[Question] If the talks yield a favorable result, can that outcome be regarded as the first political development in Georgia's independent and bilateral relations with the former USSR republics?

[Answer] Of course. We hope the agreement will be regarded as a model for the talks we hold with the other republics. In fact, we hope that it will be regarded as a model for our talks with Russia. We are convinced that the agreement we conclude with Azerbaijan will exceed the bounds of mutual interest. Considering the historic, traditional, and mutual relations between the two republics, the common borders and economic interests, and the existence of a large Georgian community in Azerbaijan and nearly 500,000 Azerbaijanis in Georgia, our relations have a special significance.

If we believe that the question of common aspects applies to all of the Caucasus and that [words indistinct] without disrupting the existing balances in the multinational relations in the region, it will become obvious that we all have to make a diplomatic effort to maintain the balances in accordance with the principle of unity. Friendly ties and good-neighborly relations are based on mutual interest and [words indistinct].

I am convinced that improving the situation in the Transcaucasus depends to a great extent on the outcome of our talks with Azerbaijan. Of course, the disputed issues, which are common knowledge, will not be discussed in the dialogue. We hope that the meeting we have will be the first step toward high-level bilateral contacts. I am convinced that will give people hope for bright skies over the Caucasus region. That cannot be achieved merely by an expression of hope. A principled political program is required.

Our recent talks with Iran, the favorable development of our relations with Turkey, the diplomatic perspectives in the Near East [Yakin Sark], the plans made for agreements with Armenia and the northern Caucasus region, and the talks we are holding with Russia have created hope for the success of the policy of good-neighborly relations. We must learn to help each other in the [words indistinct], which is full of political and social problems. That is the only reasonable policy. There is no alternative. I wish to recall a proverb: Wish your neighbor well if you want a comfortable life.

Helicopters Evacuate 274 From Abkhaz Town

LD0302180493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 3 Feb—All five helicopters that flew out this morning to Tkvarcheli carrying humanitarian aid returned to Sochi this evening. They brought 274 people out of the blockaded Abkhaz town. All the persons of Georgian nationality wanting to leave Tkvarcheli—there turned out to be only 20 of them—have been brought out. The remaining persons who were evacuated are Abkhazians, Russians, and representatives of other nationalities.

Unfortunately, a helicopter has not yet managed to land at the upper pad, which is in a Tkvarcheli district whose inhabitants are believed to be in special need of aid.

Sigua, Kitovani Interviewed on Abkhazia Situation

MK0402092993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Guga Lolishvili report incorporating interviews with Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, Defense Minister Kitovani, and Abkhazian Council of Ministers Chairman Tamaz Nadareyshvili in Tbilisi on 2 February: "Talks or War Until Victory? Georgian Parliament Discusses Situation in Abkhazia"]

[Text] The Georgian parliament began discussing the situation in Abkhazia on 2 February. Despite the fact that initially the session had a broad range of participants,

including Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, Georgian Armed Forces Command in Chief Colonel General Anatoliy Kamkamidze, and also the commanders of units participating in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, after protracted debate it was decided to conduct the discussion behind closed doors.

During a recess NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent interviewed some of the participants in the session. Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua stated that he remains a supporter of a settlement of the conflict at the negotiating table. In his view, the possibilities have still not been exhausted. In Sigua's words, the basis for negotiations should be the 3 September agreement reached at the talks in Moscow. Sigua stressed that the United Nations is also examining these documents as the basis for a mechanism for settling the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. The prime minister stated that he is categorically opposed to any revision of the 3 September agreements signed by the top leaders of Georgia and Russia. On the subject of the Russian troops stationed in Abkhazia, Sigua stated that if they remain on the territory of that autonomous territory they should be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Russian Ministry of Defense to that of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucaus. Sigua also stated that he favors the development of close ties with Russia and totally disagrees with the local opposition's demand for the Russian-Georgian talks to be boycotted.

A diametrically opposite view was expressed by Tamaz Nadareyshvili, chairman of the Abkhazia Council of Ministers (which is operating on the territory controlled by Georgian troops). He stated that he sees no chance of a political settlement of the conflict. In the situation which has developed, in his view, purely military methods should be applied. Nadareyshvili spelled out his concept of the final stage of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, according to which there will have to be a military operation on the Tkvarcheli salient in the next few days since, in his words, whereas the Russian military presence is playing a deterrent role in the Gumista River area, this problem does not exist on the Tkvarcheli salient. Nadareyshvili said that he has information that many Abkhaz formations on this salient are ready to lay down their arms and the operation could be relatively painless. After Tkvarcheli is taken, Nadareyshvili continued, the Sukhumi grouping of Georgian government troops should be reinforced. Nadareyshvili explained his radical stance in terms of the Abkhaz side's systematic violation of all existing agreements.

Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani was terse. In his view, efforts should be made for a political settlement, but the possibility of a purely military solution should be borne in mind if the peace initiatives prove fruitless. Kitovani noted that in this instance the Russian troop contingent in Abkhazia would not be a deterrent factor for Georgia. He also said that he is a supporter of the continuation of the talks process with Russia and the existence of normal mutual relations between these countries.

It has become known from information obtained from the hall where the session has been taking place that a number of those present, as expected, criticized the Georgian Government. In particular, Abkhazia National Unity Committee leader Boris Kakubava accused the government of passivity and a wait-and-see attitude on the Abkhaziia conflict, which could lead to what Kakubava regards as fatal consequences.

Criticism was also leveled at Defense Minister Kitovani, who gave an assurance in his speech that if parliament and the government adopt a decision to this effect he is prepared to quit his post immediately, adding that the problems would not be any less if he went.

The session of parliament continued late into the evening. No concrete decision was adopted. Discussion of the Abkhaz question will resume today.

UN Mission Arrives in Sukhumi, Meets Abkhaz Ministers

AU0402094093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Abkhaz Information Ministry Information Analysis Center, [name indistinct], informed us that, yesterday, a UN mission left Tbilisi for Sukhumi. The mission is composed of representatives of international refugee and health protection organizations. Yesterday, a meeting began between representatives of the mission and the Abkhaz Council of Ministers.

Russian Troops Fired on in Tbilisi 3 Feb

OW0402144593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Another provocation was perpetrated in Tbilisi against Russian troops, according to the press center of the group of Russian troops in the Caucasus. In the evening of last Wednesday [3 February] the Karaul settlement and Kazarma battalion of the guards of the headquarters of the group of Russian troops in the Caucasus were subjected to automatic gun fire. In a publication on Thursday in Tbilisi, the press center of the group of Russian Troops noted that in spite of the repeated requests and appeals the military-political leadership of Georgia is not taking any real measures to stop provocations against servicemen.

The press center appealed to the mass media to "more persistently and purposefully form public opinion toward understanding the fact that all the problems of the presence of Russian troops can be resolved only with a political approach. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Talks With Russia on Military Issues Near Completion

LD0402100993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The work of Russian Federation military experts, led by Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin, who are taking part in the third round of Russian-Georgian talks, is close

to completion. Nikolay Mamulashvili, an IPRINDA agency correspondent, reports from Tbilisi.

[Mamulashvili] Let me remind you that the military joined the talks when a treaty on the status and the time limits for Russian troops' deployment on Georgian territory was discussed. In a conversation with an IPRINDA agency correspondent, General Galkin said the two sides have already virtually completed discussing of the treaty. The delegations are now working on a package of agreements on military issues affixed to this document. These are agreements between the two states on the issue of safe flights and movements of Russian vessels in Georgia's air and aquatic space, an agreement on provision of pensions for former Russian servicemen on Georgian territory, and some other agreements.

On 3 February, there was a stormy debate at the talks with regard to an agreement on the Russian troops' movable and immovable property on Georgian territory and procedures for its transfer to the republic. The two sides decided to postpone the discussion of this issue, and to set up a special mixed commission of military experts to work it out in more detail.

The military delegations decided to introduce an amendment to the treaty on the status and the time limits for Russian troops' deployment on Georgian territory. Under this amendment, Russian military formations stationed in the republic, including the troops in Abkhazia, will become subordinate to the command of the Russian group of forces in Transcaucasia.

And another few words in connection with the talks. On 3 February, Vladimir Zemskiy, Russia's ambassador to Georgia, thanked the Georgian delegation for helping to quickly resolve the issue of resuming humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli. According to Zemskiy, Russian helicopters with humanitarian supplies are to make 10 flights a day. The Russian ambassador also said that the question of proportional airlift of refugees of Georgian and Abkhazian nationality from this mining town has been resolved.

Law on Universal Military Service Obligation Published

AU0402134293 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 6 Jan 93 p 2

["Republic of Georgia Law on Universal Military Service Obligation" issued in Tbilisi on 29 December]

[Text] The Republic of Georgia Law on Universal Military Service Obligation determines the rules according to which citizens of the Republic of Georgia are to perform military service obligation.

Chapter I

General Regulations

Article 1. A citizen of the Republic of Georgia is obliged to perform universal military service.

Article 2. The Republic of Georgia Armed Forces are composed of the Army, border troops, and Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops.

Article 3. Military service is divided into compulsory, professional, and reserve military service.

Those performing military service are called military servicemen while those in the reserve are called reservists.

Reserve and replacement reserve formations are built up to prescribed strength, and their personnel undergoes appropriate military training according to the mobilization plan of the Ministry of Defense that is approved by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 4. A citizen called up for military service swears a military oath.

Article 5. Servicemen and reservists are divided according to rank into privates (sailors), sergeants, ranking NCO's (warrant officers) and officer personnel.

Officer personnel of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces are divided into:

a) junior officer personnel: from junior lieutenant to captain and those holding equivalent ranks;
b) senior-grade officers: from major to colonel and those holding equivalent ranks;
c) general and flag officers: generals and admirals.

Article 6. Privates (sailors), sergeants, and ranking NCO's (warrant officers) who are performing military service obligation established in law are viewed as performing compulsory military service while those who serve for a longer period are viewed as performing extended military service.

Article 7. Each serviceman and reservist is given an appropriate military rank.

Chapter II

The Rules for Performing Universal Military Service Obligation

Article 8. Young men who have reached the age of 18 before the call-up day are conscripted into universal military service. The maximum call-up age is 25.

Article 9. After they have taken the appropriate entrance examinations, young men with a secondary education are enrolled in service schools and called cadets.

Cadets in service schools are viewed as performing military service. They, together with the members of their families, enjoy all the rights and benefits established in law that are provided for servicemen called up into the Armed Forces.

Article 10. The length of military service for all troops in the Armed Forces and for all categories of conscripts is 24 months.

Article 11. The call-up of young men for military service is carried out twice a year—in the spring and the fall.

Article 12. In the case of citizens refusing to perform compulsory military service on grounds of freedom of conscience and religion, they can be called up for nonmilitary alternative service in accordance with the Republic of Georgia Law of 14 June 1991. The term of alternative service is 36 months.

Chapter III

The Registration of Young Men at Conscription Registration Districts and Their Training for Service in the Armed Forces

Article 13. Young men conscripted into the Armed Forces are trained as specialists:

a) in institutions of military vocational orientation and training belonging to the Ministry of Defense;
b) in sports and technical schools and clubs and also on special courses.

Article 14. To organize the training and call-up of young men for service in the Armed Forces, the territory of the Republic of Georgia is subdivided into rayon (town) conscription registration districts.

Article 15. By a decree of the Republic of Georgia Government, the registration of young men who have reached the age of 17 during the year of their registration will take place between January and March each year in conscription registration districts.

Article 16. The registration of young men in conscription registration districts is conducted by rayon (town) boards of the military departments. The boards are headed by the chiefs of the military departments.

Medical specialists designated by the public health bodies conduct medical examinations of registered conscripts. If a medical specialist does not turn up in any conscription registration district, the Republic of Georgia Ministry for Health Protection is obliged, on the demand of the Ministry of Defense, to temporarily dispatch an appropriate medical specialist and to pay his expenses and retain his permanent position and salary.

Additional medical examinations to establish if a registered conscript is fit for military service are conducted in public health institutions free of charge.

The gamgeobas [local administrative boards] of towns and villages (settlements), gamgebelis [local administrative board chiefs], housing departments, private apartment owners, establishments, enterprises, and institutions belonging to the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Education are entrusted with the registration of reservists and conscripts. Before 1 December each year, they are to present a list of young men eligible for registration to the conscription registration district of the rayon (town) military department.

Article 17. Young men who are eligible for registration in the conscription registration district are obliged to report to the military department at a fixed time. This will be specified in the order of the chief of the military department and in personal call-up papers.

Young men undergoing registration in a conscription registration district are called conscripts.

Chapter IV

The Call-Up of Young Men Into the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces

Article 18. The call-up of young men for compulsory military service is conducted on the basis of an order from the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense.

The number of conscripts is determined by the chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state on the basis of the requirements of the Ministry of Defense.

When the established number of conscripts is less than the number of those citizens who are eligible for call-up, all remaining young men not called up will be conscripted during the next call-up period.

The dates when citizens are to report to conscription registration districts are fixed by the chiefs of rayon (town) military departments.

Article 19. Following publication of the decree and order on the call-up for compulsory military service, each conscript is obliged to report to the conscription registration district on the date specified in the personal call-up papers.

Conscripts who have left their place of residence are obliged to report immediately to the conscription registration district at which they are registered.

The heads of organizations, enterprises, and establishments are obliged to assist conscripts to report to conscription registration districts.

Article 20. It is compulsory to report to the conscription registration district.

The ill-health of a conscript, serious family circumstances, natural disasters, and other similar circumstances, provided they have been proved by an appropriate document, may serve as valid reasons for his failure to report. In the event of his failure to report, a conscript is punished according to the rules established in law.

Article 21. Town and rayon conscription boards are to be set up locally to conduct the call-up for compulsory military service.

The boards are to be composed of:

the board chairman—the chief of the rayon (town) military department;

the members of the conscription board—representatives of rayon (town) gamgeobas and the departments of health protection, education, and internal affairs and military departments.

Medical boards are to be created alongside the conscription boards.

The medical boards are to be composed of a dermatologist, therapeutist, neuropathologist, psychiatrist, narcologist, otolarynologist, ophthalmologist, and dentist.

The medical board has a chairman who is appointed by the Republic of Georgia minister of health protection.

In accordance with a decision of the conscription boards, sick conscripts are granted a deferment of their call-up from six months to three years.

The chairman and members of the conscription board are responsible for the legality of the decisions implemented.

Article 22. To control the leadership of the rayon and town conscription boards and their activities, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers is to set up a republican conscription board.

The republican conscription board is to be composed of:

the board chairman—the chief of the administration of the Republic of Georgia local military organs;

the members of the board—representatives of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers, the ministries of health protection, education, and internal affairs, and the republic's Procurator's Office.

Rayon and town conscription medical boards are directed and controlled by the republican medical board.

Article 23. In accordance with the corresponding plan, conscripts recognized as fit for military service are dispatched to military units (by ship) to carry out their military service. They are issued with military service cards.

Article 24. Local administrative bodies of the Republic of Georgia are entrusted:

a) during the call-up period, to allocate premises, appropriate equipment, transport, and medical specialists to carry out medical examinations to military departments so that they can conduct the registration and call-up of citizens;
b) to assist rayon (town) military departments to register citizens on time at conscription registration districts.

Article 25. Doctors who are members of the medical boards and who are participating in the work of these boards retain their salary at their principal place of work while those dispatched to other regions are reimbursed for their expenses.

Chapter V

Deferment of Call-Up for Compulsory Military Service

Article 26. In peacetime, the following are not eligible for call-up for compulsory military service due to their family circumstances:

a) the only son and breadwinner of disabled parents;
b) the brother and breadwinner of disabled sisters and brothers;
c) the sole grandson who is caring for disabled grandparents if they do not have any other breadwinner;
d) a conscript who has a wife and children.

These conscripts do their military training without interrupting their studies or work.

Deferment on family grounds is granted to conscripts up to the age of 25 provided they have not lost the right to this privilege before they reach this age. In peacetime, they are not obliged to be called up for compulsory military service and are enlisted in the reserve.

Article 27. Deferment of call-up for compulsory military service is granted for reasons of study to the following:

a) day students at institutions of higher education who are undergoing their military training at corresponding departments of military science—until they have completed their studies. On passing their examinations, they are awarded the rank of officer in the reserve.
b) students in secondary and specialized secondary education institutions—until they have completed their studies but no older than 20.

Chapter VI

Discharge From the Armed Forces on Completion of Compulsory Military Service

Article 28. On expiry of the period of military service stipulated in this law, servicemen are discharged from service in the Armed Forces.

They are discharged on the order of the commander of the military unit on the basis of the decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and the order of the Ministry of Defense.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense and the Main Administration of the Internal Troops are given the right to accept on a voluntary basis for extended service in the Armed Forces servicemen and reservists who are eligible for discharge. The rules according to which they perform extended service are determined by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 29. Servicemen performing compulsory military service may be discharged from military service early:

a) if the military medical board declares them to be unfit for military service;

If the family circumstances of a serviceman change while he is performing his military service and these circumstances conform to Article 26 of this law, he is discharged on the order of the chief of the Main Staff of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

Article 30. The heads of the local administrative bodies are obliged to try to find jobs for persons discharged from the Armed Forces that correspond with their professions. Those persons who were students prior to call-up are to return to the educational institutions and to the course of study from which they were called up.

Article 31. Persons discharged from military service are registered at the military department in their place of residence. Their period of military service is included in their period of labor service.

Article 32. Privates (sailors), sergeants, and ranking NCO's (warrant officers) may serve in the reserve until the age of 45.

Article 33. The reserve of the Armed Forces is divided into a first and second category.

The reserve's first category is made up of:

a) those who have performed one year's military service;
b) those who have taken part in combat actions regardless of their length of service.

The reserve's second category is made up of:

a) those who have performed less than one year's military service;
b) all those who, for a certain reason, have not done their compulsory military service;
c) women registered for military service.

Article 34. The reserve is divided into three categories according to age:

first category—up to 30;
second category—up to 40;
third category—up to 45.

If necessary, reservists are to undergo active duty training stints.

Chapter VII

On Military Service for Officers

Article 35. The rules according to which officer personnel perform military service are determined by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Officers perform military service and are in the ranks of the Armed Forces up to the following age-limits:

		Age-Limit			
Military rank for all types of troops (excluding the Navy)	Navy	Regular Personnel	Reserve		
			1st category	2nd category	3rd category
1. junior lieutenant, lieutenant, senior lieutenant, captain	junior lieutenant, lieutenant, senior lieutenant, captain-lieutenant	40	40	45	50
2. from major to colonel	captain 3rd rank, captain 2nd rank	50	50	55	55
3. colonel	captain 1st rank	55	55	60	60
4. general	admiral	60	60	65	65

Article 36. A regular officer who has reached the maximum age- limit is eligible for discharge from military service. If necessary, some of them may, on an order from the Ministry of Defense, remain as part of the regular personnel for five years. In an emergency situation, this period can be extended for a further five years.

Article 37. An officer may be discharged from military service before he has reached the maximum age-limit for the following reasons:

a) ill-health;
b) the inability to perform work duties;
c) a reduction in strength levels;
d) an action degrading the dignity of an officer.

Article 38. The reserve officer personnel is made up of:

a) generals (admirals) and officers discharged from the regular personnel of the Armed Forces;
b) the officer reserve that has completed a course of study at military departments in higher and secondary specialized educational institutions.

Article 39. If necessary, reserve officer personnel are to receive academic instruction.

Article 40. In peacetime, if necessary, officers in the reserve may be called up to serve as officers in the Armed Forces. The call-up may proceed:

a) voluntarily;
b) by a government decree;
c) officers in the reserve aged up to 30—for 24 months.
In bringing up to full strength the republic's Armed Forces, officers in the reserve with the following uncommon specializations are eligible for call-up: signalmen, tank crewmen, artillerymen, sappers, vehicle mechanics [avtomobilisti], doctors, and the commanders of APC and combat vehicle platoons of infantry troops who obtained their military specialization at military departments in higher educational institutes.

Article 41. Officers in the reserve who have reached the maximum age-limit or who are unfit for military service are to be removed from the military service registration list and are to bear the titles of retired officers and generals (admirals).

Chapter VIII

The Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of Servicemen and Reservists

Article 42. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints enjoy all the rights stipulated in the republic's legislation.

The rights and duties of servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints are defined in the military regulations.

Article 43. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints receive a state allowance.

Article 44. To regulate military registration, citizens are discharged from service for a necessary period of time and retain their full salary.

If a citizen summoned for an active duty training stint falls ill during the training and his illness continues after it is over, he will receive a salary from the state as a disabled person in accordance with existing legislation.

Persons summoned for an active duty training stint receive a full salary in accordance with their place of work and position. However, during an active duty training stint, they receive a salary in accordance with the position they hold in the military unit.

Conscripts and reservists undergo a medical examination and tests free of charge to establish if they are fit for military service. Travel expenses, if incurred for leaving the rayon, are reimbursed by the state.

Article 45. Regular officers and those performing extended military service and the aforementioned who are in retirement pay 50 percent of their rent and costs for telephone, lighting, and local public utilities while the remaining 50 percent is paid by the state.

Article 46. The postal service in respect of parcels and letters sent by conscripts is free of charge. Postal charges are paid by the Ministry of Defense.

Article 47. Servicemen who become invalids during their military service are granted a military pension. After they have completed their military service, officers are granted a permanent military pension taking into account their years of service.

Article 48. During their period of active military service, servicemen are forbidden:

a) from becoming members of political parties;
b) from participating in political actions directed against the Government;
c) from holding several posts.

Article 49. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints are accountable for violating military discipline and public order in accordance with the disciplinary code of the Armed Forces and for committing a crime in accordance with existing legislation.

Chapter IX

Military Registration

Article 50. The military registration of conscripts and reservists is carried out at their place of residence according to the rules established by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Defense.

Article 51. The registration of citizens of the Republic of Georgia living abroad is carried out in embassies and consulates of the Republic of Georgia. They are obliged, in the event of a call- up, to ensure that persons eligible for call-up report to the military department in their permanent place of residence.

Article 52. In the event of their changing their place of residence, conscripts and reservists are obliged within one week to report personally to the military department to deregister and reregister.

Article 53. Conscripts and reservists are obliged to inform the military department of any change in their family circumstances: a deterioration in their health, a change of address, and so forth.

Article 54. In the event of conscripts and reservists violating the rules of military registration and deliberately damaging military documents, they are fined a minimum of 5-10 days salary by the chief of the military department.

Article 55. On the demand of the military department, the heads of local administrative bodies, enterprises and establishments, educational institutes, and other organizations are obliged to give notification of call-up to conscripts and reservists.

Article 56. The heads of local administrative bodies, village (settlement) sakrebulos [assemblies], housing management districts, enterprises and establishments, and organizations are entrusted with carrying out military registration and periodically comparing their data with that of the military department.

Article 57. Labor commissions and boards of medical experts are entrusted with informing the military departments via the social security bodies of those conscripts and reservists who have become invalids.

Article 58. Sections of the civil registrar's office are obliged to inform the military departments if conscripts and reservists have changed their surname, first name, or patronymic, their date of birth, and status and also if they have died.

Article 59. Investigative bodies should inform the appropriate military departments within five days of the initiation of criminal proceedings against conscripts and courts should inform them of sentences imposed on conscripts.

Article 60. Offices of local internal affairs are entrusted with:

a) registering and deregistering conscripts and reservists in their place of residence only on presentation of their military registration documents;
b) helping local military departments with the call-up of citizens for compulsory military service;
c) conducting an investigation of those persons who refuse to perform compulsory military service.

Chapter X

Mobilization Call-Up in an Emergency

Article 61. Mobilization, in an emergency, is announced by the chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state.

Mobilization call-up and subsequent call-ups during wartime are implemented by a decision of the chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state and a decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 62. In the event of the announcement of mobilization:

a) it is forbidden to change and leave one's permanent place of residence without the consent of the military department;
b) until a special order is given, the discharge of all servicemen from the Armed Forces is to be halted;
c) upon announcement of mobilization, reservists are obliged at a specified time to report immediately to the military department in their place of residence.

Article 63. Those conscripts and reservists who refuse to register at the military departments during mobilization bear responsibility in accordance with existing legislation.

E. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state.
V. Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament.
Tbilisi, 29 December 1992.

Estonia

Defense Ministry Refuses Entry to Russian Military

WS0302130593 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1618 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, 2 February 1993—Estonia's Ministry of Defence cancelled a permit given to a Russian military unit allowing 250 Russian military to Estonia for five months.

The ministry granted the permit to the Russian military unit No. 12129 on January 21, 1993 to help in transporting military equipment out of Estonia.

Estonia's Ministry of Defence informed the country's border defence forces and also the Russian military leadership stationed in Estonia of the cancellation.

Granting the permit was a domestic policy mistake, Estonia's Minister of Defence, Hain Rebas, told a government briefing on Tuesday [2 February].

Estonian-Russian teams at inter-state negotiations had discussed bringing additional military forces to Estonia in order to help in military pullout. No agreement on that matter, however, was reached. "Some officials in the Ministry of Defence interpreted the discussion too freely," Prime Minister Mart Laar told the briefing.

Lithuania's news agency ELTA on Tuesday informed ETA that under an agreement with the country's government, a Russian military unit came to Lithuania to help in troop pullout. Lithuania had agreed to 300 military, but the actual arrival number was at least three times bigger.

Under the circumstances, Lithuania's Ministry of Defence issued a note of protest demanding an explanation.

Though Russian military constitute no real threat to the country at the moment, conflicts are inevitable if they don't cooperate with Lithuania's defence authorities, the country's Minister of Defence, Audrius Butkevicius told a daily "Ehho Latva".

Government Noncommittal on Arms Purchases From Israel

OW0402005193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1723 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian officials neither confirm nor deny the reports that Estonia is going to purchase a major quantity of weapons from Israel for the needs of its defense forces.

At a press conference in Tallinn on Tuesday [2 February], Prime Minister Mart Laar said that the republic's defense council is fully aware of all the negotiations related to arms purchases. Mr Laar characterized such transactions as secret, averring that they are not liable to authorization by the parliament.

The republic's defense minister, Hain Rebas said the ministry was currently involved in arms purchase negotiations with many countries, and it seeks to maintain contacts with the maximum number of arms exporters.

The "Philadelphia Inquirer" reported last week, making a reference to Eerik Kross, Estonian diplomatic representative in the US, that Israel had provided a $50-Mn [million] credit to Estonia for purchasing "Uzi" submachine guns and "Stinger" anti-aircraft missiles.

Arkadiy Milman, adviser of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, told BALTFAX that "this report is, apparently, misinformation." In his words, Israel is not providing credits to any country, for it is looking for credits itself.

According to the Estonian paper "Eesti Ekspress", former adviser to the Estonian Defense Ministry Toomas Puura, accompanied by Estonia's trade representative in Israel Leonid Apananskiy, visited some of the military plants in Israel during their visit there late last year.

President Meri's Visit to France Viewed

PM0402121993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by G. Sapozhnikova: "Meri's Double Standards"]

[Text] Tallinn—Last week Estonian Republic President Lennart Meri visited France. The program of his official visit, in addition to all other official meetings, included a visit to the International Diplomatic Academy, where Mr President delivered a report on the theme of "European Identity." It must be supposed that the audience of 1,000—students of the academy and diplomats accredited to France—was too small for such a truly innovatory approach toward history.

First of all the president noted that Estonia is no Kyrgyzstan, although the French mass media—the newspaper, radio, and television philosophers—sometimes call the Estonian Republic a young state or even, like Kyrgyzstan, a "new democracy." No, Lennart Meri is president of what is by no means a young European state but actually a very solid one since at the end of this month the Estonian Republic will unexpectedly be 75 years old. Second, Mr President specified that Estonia has never been a Russian province. And third, he put the French in their place: "Long before Paris became the capital of France we had a Roman-Germanic legal system operating in our country. Estonia had its own European administration, its own money, and its own clearly expressed identity..."

Mr Estonian President explained once more to his French audience that the problem of the rights of the Russian-speaking minority in Estonia does not exist although "Russian extremists (perhaps they are in the Russian Foreign Ministry?—G.S.) have invested a lot of money to ensure that the question of human rights in the Baltic countries is kept on the agenda of the world press and the withdrawal of Russian troops is thus slowed down."

In addition Lennart Meri has done a good amount of theoretical work, formulating the three features of Russian

national-chauvinism: "First, Russia became an empire before the population of that territory had been consolidated as a nation. The psychological result was a situation in which Russians are not asking what Russia is and what it is not... In the mentality of the Russians there is no concept of Russian borders, in Russian poetry you encounter the expression 'boundless Russia.'

"Second, the Russian Federation is whatever you like but not Russia, if you identify Russia through Turgenev, Dostoyevskiy, and Tolstoy.

"Third, the collapse of the USSR has had its most painful effect on those RUssians who were sent to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania... They have been deprived of their privileges and so some of them would like the restoration of the USSR."

How was the above summed up? Here's how: "Concessions to Yeltsin and the restorers will lead to the same fatal consequences as concessions to Gorbachev... By supporting the Baltic countries and the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the democratic world will support Yeltsin and Russia's renewal... So we must continue the line of De Gaulle and Adenauer until Russia has accumulated sufficient moral forces to give an answer to its central question: What is Russian identity?"

Further on Laar's Comments After Davos Visit

WS0302130993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1702 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From 2 February RAHVA HAAL and POSTIMEES, p 1]

[Text] 2 February 1993—Premier Mart Laar arrived from Davos, Switzerland, where he performed at the annual World Economic Forum. "Estonia acknowledged for the first time that it is a democratic state heading for market economy and having economically thinking leaders," Laar told the news conference at the airport. According to adviser Tiit Pruuli accompanying Laar on his visits, Estonia introduced itself to very influential economic circles and made useful personal contacts with the top men in economy and politics.

Lots of press meetings were organized where Laar performed, lots of plenary sessions, seminars and lunches were organized participated by heads of influential companies and top economic figures. "Most of the work in Davos consisted of concluding personal contacts," Pruuli said. A panel discussion on "Mare Balticum" was also held in Davos with the participation of Swedish Premier Carl Bildt, Finnish Premier Esko Aho and Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis.

"Human rights were not an important issue discussed at the meeting," Pruuli said. "Nobody made any doubts that Estonian laws could hinder development of democracy and free economy." "Obviously, the Russian leaders have finally realized that this record has been playing too long," Laar said.

Latvia

Legal Assistance Treaty With Russia Signed

LD0302203393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Latvian and Russian ministers of justice, Viktors Skudra and Nikolay Fedorov, signed a treaty on legal assistance and legal relations today in Riga. Its main task is to provide protection for citizens of both countries and to regulate legal assistance in civil, family, and criminal cases regarding: adoption and inheritance matters; the transfer of numerous documents from one country to another; the exaction of alimony payments; and, in particular, the pursuit of criminals.

The two countries' legal protection institutions can now collaborate in criminal investigations. According to the legislation, on the request of another country, they may also recommend or take over the pursuit of its citizens who are criminals detained on suspicion of committing crimes on the territory of another country.

The possibilities are favorable for continuing the investigation of the crimes of the former Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] soldiers, because a great number have taken refuge in Russia. However, at an improvised press conference after signing the treaty, the two ministers emphasized that the exchange of sentenced persons [words indistinct] was not addressed in this treaty, and it does not relate to Sergey Parfenov, former OMON deputy commander.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia has charged Procurator General Janis Skrastins with working out a special draft treaty on this issue within 10 days. The agreement now signed will also take effect only after being ratified by the two countries' parliaments.

Estonia, Latvia Working Toward More Liberal Trade

LD0402113993 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Urve Nou, adviser to the Estonian Foreign ministry, said after the Estonian Governmental delegation's official meeting at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Trade in Riga yesterday, that an agreement has been reached to take active steps toward liberalizing Estonian-Latvian trade. Both parties will endeavor to reduce organizational, transport, as well as accounting difficulties, while also preparing for the conclusion of an Estonian-Latvian free trade agreement.

Specialists of the Economics Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the Road Ministry are taking part in the work of the eight-strong Estonian governmental delegation. The work is being coordinated by Estonian Ambassador to Latvia Leili Utno. The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Trade working group is led by Deputy Minister Runcis.

Prime Minister Advocates Free Trade With Baltics

OW0402003093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1721 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his report at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Latvian Prime Minister, Ivars Godmanis, proposed to develop joint investment projects and sign a free trade agreement between the Baltic countries.

Upon his return from Switzerland, the Prime Minister said in an interview for "Diena" daily paper that in the opinion of Western analysts, Latvia's big achievement, in spite of the ongoing economic crisis, is stability of its national currency. Western experts, however, did not show any particular interest in cooperating with Latvian industrial enterprises, giving priority to promoting trade cooperation with it.

Godmanis Returns From Davos Economic Forum, Comments

WS0302130693 Tallinn BNS in English 2055 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, Feb 02, BNS—Despite the serious economic crisis in Latvia, its greatest achievement so far has been a stable interim currency—the Latvian ruble, said Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

Godmanis spoke with reporters in airport Monday [1 February] night after his return form the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

The Latvian ruble's success contrasts to the sharp fall in the values of the Russian ruble and other currencies of the CIS. But, he cautioned that Latvians should not get their hopes up about possible links between Western countries and Latvian industry. Western economic leaders primarily proposed trade and commerce agreements.

The World Economic Forum is an unofficial association of world's economic leaders. It meets annually in the Swiss resort of Davos, said Godmanis.

This was the first time representatives of the Baltic countries took part in the forum's sessions, he said.

A special session was devoted entirely to problems in the Baltic region, particularly to the project Mare Balticum, said Godmanis.

The Latvian Prime Minister and his Lithuanian and Swedish counterparts called for strengthening Baltic cooperation by working out joint investment projects rather than competing in creating new industries, reports Diena.

The three states should also sign free trade agreements with each other, Godmanis said.

Godmanis said he participated in the brainstorming sessions in which he briefed 15 groups of world business leaders about the situation in Latvia.

He said the Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, Ukranian president Kravchuk and Belarusian and East European leaders "were circling around these groups."

In Davos, Godmanis has also held briefly discussed monetary policies with the Russian, Kazakh, Belarusian and Ukrainian leaders.

Opposition Criticizes Plan To Move Graves

OW0302121793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1143 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Parliament on Tuesday [2 February] declared the area around the Freedom Monument and the servicemen's cemeteries in Riga to be "territories under special regulations." They will be closed for restoration work and reburials.

The parliament describes the monument and cemeteries as symbols of the fight for Latvia's national independence and of the Latvian people's national awareness. Parliament's decree attaches a high cultural and historic value to them and stresses the necessity for their proper maintenance.

Parliament has instructed the government to set up, by April 1, an administration for the monument and cemeteries, a state enterprise which will have to have them refurbished in accordance with the original design, and make arrangements for the reburials. Both the monument and cemeteries will be guarded round the clock.

The reburial plan caused particularly heated debates. The chairman of the parliamentary architecture and construction commission, Ojars Blumbergs, said the press "has been carrying false reports to the effect that plans are being made to remove from the servicemen's cemeteries the remains of all Soviet soldiers killed in the Second World War." He said there are practically no such graves in the area in question. What the parliament decree covers are the burials made after the war until 1984 in the so-called Old Bolsheviks' Alley by decision of the Latvian Communist Party's Central Committee.

The Committee for Servicemen's Cemeteries has to decide how many reburials have to be made.

Meanwhile, two parliamentary groups, Democratic Initiative Center and Equality, have attacked the decision on reburials.

Thus, Equality leader Sergey Dimanis said that, though the decision only concerns certain graves, it is "virtually a carte blanche to rebury anyone." He told BALTFAX Riga's authorities may end up reburying Red Army soldiers killed liberating the city from the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War.

Lithuania

Butkevicius Urges Russian Adherence to Troop Withdrawal

WS0302130093 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1450 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 177]

[Text] 2 February 1993—At the meeting with the electorate in Marijampole, the Minister of National Defence Audrius Butkevicius seconded Algirdas Brazauskas' affirmation that at the present time the Russian military units stationed in Lithuania pose no real danger. However, if they do not coordinate their actions with the command of our National Defence, like in the case of bringing into Lithuania supplementary troops' contingent last week, conflicts will become unavoidable, he added.

Audrius Butkevicius stated that the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence keeps the Russian Military contingent's actions under control. The newly arrived servicemen are preparing the technique of the 7th airborne division for departure. According to the pullout schedule, this division was to leave Lithuania by the end of August, now with the help of the supplementary contingent it will be removed several months prior to the schedule.

Minister of the National Defence said he would shortly meet with the Commissioner of the Russian North-Western Army General A. Mayorov and demand that the terms and conditions for the Russian troops' withdrawal from Lithuania agreed upon last September should be strictly adhered to.

Progress of Army Withdrawal Viewed

LD0302185893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania was stopped until 15 January 1993 because Russia's deployed units are facing difficult conditions: accommodations for the officers' families have not been prepared, and military cantonments have not been equipped.

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, said last week in Kaliningrad that the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the Baltic states, including Lithuania, has been stopped because Russia is experiencing a very severe winter. Taking hasty steps and placing the officers' families in temporary accommodations that are unsuitable for habitation may cause very undesirable consequences.

Meanwhile, Colonel Stasys Knezys, chief representative of the Lithuanian Government, says that the withdrawal of [passage indistinct] has at last begun. [Words indistinct] airborne troops are leaving Kaunas, Marijampole, Kalvarija, Kazlu-Ruda, and Alytus.

Division Commander Major General Kolotukhov has applied to the Lithuanian authorities and this division has been allowed [words indistinct] bring an additional 207 soldiers to help in the dismantling of equipment.

Meanwhile Col. Knezys told Radio Vilnius that on 19 January, without the knowledge of Lithuanian authorities, 722 Russian soldiers were brought to the Kedainiai airfield. They were transferred to the Rukla training center in Jonava Rayon. Thus, the order to solve the technical and organizational problems of the withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation from the territory of Lithuania has been violated [passage indistinct].

According to Knezys, the Lithuanian Government has prepared two notes: the first, to leave these soldiers and regard them as an auxiliary labor force (?in loading) military provisions at the Rukla training center; the other, to immediately withdraw the 722 soldiers from Lithuania.

Because of the violation of the agreement between the Lithuanian and Russian defense ministers on 8 September last year, Gediminas Seksnys, head of the Lithuanian group of experts, has lodged a protest with the Russian side. According to a member of the commission responsible for taking over military materials, Antanas [name indistinct], yesterday [passage indistinct]. There are no rockets at present, but a large quantity of special rocket [word indistinct] fuel has been left. This fuel is very dangerous.

Col. Knezys noted that the Russian military leadership will remove this load to Russia shortly. There is no danger that this fuel may explode (?and it is safely guarded) [passage indistinct]. The Lithuanian colonel noted that there were in the former Soviet Union only two such factories—in Kaunas and somewhere in Central Asia.

Radio Vilnius was told today by the commander of the Third Coastal Defense Division, Col. Aleksandr Pustousov, that the withdrawal of the Third Coastal Defense Division has begun. This division, which is deployed in Klaipeda, consists of 1,400 Russian soldiers and officers.

[Begin Pustousov recording, in Russian] Russian Defense Minister Grachev did not speak specifically about my division in Kaliningrad; however, we are going to leave Lithuania by 31 August of this year. Although I have not received from Moscow any directives confirming the timetable so far, this work will continue. [end recording]

According to the division commander, many train loads will be needed to remove the division's material wealth and military equipment. He expects that it will be possible to obtain railway carr in Lithuania. In February, five cars will depart carrying the division's provisions. He said that the division's wealth was removed to Russia in 10 cars last December.

According to military experts, the Russian Armed Forces will be moved from Lithuania to Russia faster with the approaching spring.

Tatarstan Opens Trade Mission in Kaunas

OW0402003593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1721 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Republic of Tatarstan (part of the Russian Federation) opened its trade representation in Kaunas on Wednesday [3 February].

The Tatar state delegation headed by Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev arrived in Lithuania on Tuesday to mark the occasion. On Wednesday morning, the delegation was received by Lithuania's Prime Minister Bronislavas Lubys.

During its three-day stay in Lithuania, the delegation is planning to visit some of Lithuania's industrial enterprises, including Mazeikiai oil refinery and Klaipeda harbor.

Last November, Lithuania signed a long-term trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation agreement. Now, the parties have drafted and prepared for signing a trade and inter-banking cooperation agreement for 1993, as well as a bilateral free trade agreement.

In exchange for Lithuanian consumer goods (TV sets, refrigerators, furniture, clothes, etc.) Tatarstan wants to sell Lithuania nearly 1 Mn [million] tons of oil at moderate prices.

Seimas Passes Law on Constitutional Court

LD0302202693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Today the Seimas endorsed a law on the Constitutional Court. It will consist of nine judges elected for nine years. The judges are to be appointed by the Seimas from the candidates proposed by the president, the chairman of the Seimas, and the chairman of the Supreme Court.

The four main principles of the work of the Constitutional Court are justice, independence, openness, and collegiate decisions. The judges of the court are not allowed to occupy any other posts or to participate in the activity of political organizations.

Thirty-two candidatures have already been named to take the posts of judges.

Social Democrats Back Both Lozoraitis, Brazauskas

LD0302154693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Lithuanian Social Democratic Party [SDP] believes that Lithuania needs both candidates for the post of president, Stasys Lozoraitis and Algirdas Brazauskas. One of them should be president of Lithuania and the other prime minister.

Seimas member Vytenis Endriukaitis, a representative of the Lithuanian SDP, said at a news conference on 2 February that this was exactly the election outcome that the Lithuanian SDP was seeking and that they believed that such results would be most beneficial to Lithuania.

The Social Democrats continue to stand for a wide political coalition which should embrace all the parties and movements, starting with the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [DLP] and ending with the Sajudis.

According to Vytenis Endriukaitis, the Lithuanian Social Democrats are dissociating themselves from a mutual coalition with the Lithuanian DLP, since such a coalition would mean a left-wing coalition against the right wing, which would deepen the political crisis.

Poll Shows Majority for Brazauskas

LD0302204293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The public opinion poll conducted by the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology, and Law in the second half of January indicates that 75 percent of Lithuania's citizens are going to vote for Mr. Algirdas Brazauskas, and 29 percent for Mr. Stasys Lozoraitis. Out of 1,000 respondents 4 percent said they would not vote for either of the candidates to the post of president, while 10 percent of the pollees are undecided.

Presidential Candidates Hold Third TV Debate

LD0402093293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius February 4 TASS—The third TV debate between contenders for the Lithuanian Presidency Algirdas Brazauskas and Stasys Lozoraitis was held on Wednesday evening [3 February].

The debate lasted 90 minutes. Four editors-in-chief of republican leading newspapers asked the questions.

The two hopefuls at first commented on their election platforms. Brazauskas claimed that his platform better reflects the present situation in Lithuania, indicating specific ways to pull the republican economy out of the crisis.

In turn, Lozoraitis said that, since he "wants to be a president uniting people", he supplements his platform with a new item: He suggests a project for national concord.

Asked whether the Lithuanian foreign policy will be oriented on the West or the East, the two contenders said that Lithuania will "orient on the European Community".

Further on TV Debate

OW0402124593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1142 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian presidential candidate Stasys Lozoraitis described his idea of achieving national harmony during the second TV debate on Wednesday [3 February]. If elected, he promised to urge all parties and political organizations to agree to guarantee normal functioning of the current Sejm and government for two years so that an acceptable head of government could be found.

His rival Algirdas Brazauskas was not very enthusiastic about the idea. He said his Democratic Labor Party proposed a broad coalition. The Social Democrats in parliament submitted a draft act of national accord, but the present opposition is not ready for compromise. He said that the parliamentary majority he heads is ready for negotiations with any party.

Lozoraitis refused to name the politicians he intends to appoint to key posts in case of election. He said the appointments would be agreed upon with both the majority and minority. He said, though, the opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis would not be given any significant position.

Brazauskas said that if he is elected, Landsbergis will remain the opposition leader.